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OPINION METER

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New Consul Koji Hino vows to nurture relations between Japan and NMI.

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A Chinese address is found to be the source of a cyberattack on South Korea.

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LIFE & STYLE



Jimmy Fallon will reportedly replace Jay Leno.

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No renewed CW permit, no work

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has denied the request of CNMI employers to allow foreign workers to continue working while their CW permit renewals remain pending.

» 83 percent or 10,536
now with CW permits
» 66 percent or 1,294
now with renewed
CW permits

Employer and worker groups separately said yesterday that the "economic harm" continues as a result of the non-renewal of CW-1 permits in a timely manner and hope that this is not a final decision by USCIS.

USCIS continues to urge employers to file extension petitions at least 90 days before the expiration of CW-1 status.

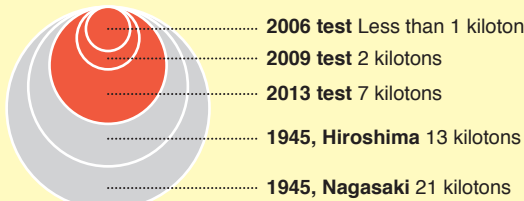
USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorka
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N. Korea threatens US bases in Guam, Japan

By PARK CHAN-KYONG
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Nuclear capability

North Korea's nuclear tests have increased in explosive force.



SEOUL, South Korea—The North Korean army threatened yesterday a possible strike against U.S. military bases in Japan, in response to the use of nuclear-capable US B-52 bombers in joint military drills with South Korea.

The threat came a day after Pyongyang condemned the B-52 flights as an "unpardonable provocation" and threatened military action if they continue.

The Pentagon confirmed that B-52s, taking off from Andersen Air Force base in Guam, had flown over South Korea as part of annual joint exercises that Pyongyang insist are a rehearsal for invasion.

"We cannot tolerate the U.S. carrying out nuclear strike drills, setting us as targets, and advertising them as strong warning messages," a spokesman for the North's supreme army command said.

"The U.S. should not for-

Dec. 2011 Kim Jong-il dies; succeeded by son, Kim Jong-un.

April 2012 Launch of rocket-mounted satellite ends in failure. UN condemns act as ballistic missile launch

Dec. 2012 Pyongyang conducts its first successful satellite launch

Jan. 2013 UN expands sanctions; North Korea announces plans to conduct nuclear test

Feb. 2013 North Korea confirms third nuclear test — previous tests were in 2006 and 2009

March 2013 UN approves new sanctions; North Korea threatens U.S. and South Korea with pre-emptive nuclear attack

Military power

In raw numbers, North Korea's military looks formidable; but antiquated equipment and scarce resources have driven the country's focus on nuclear weapons

Tanks

North Korea 4,200

South Korea 2,400

Fighter jets

North Korea 820

South Korea 460

Troops

North Korea 1.2 million

South Korea 640,000*

*Doesn't include 26,000 U.S. personnel stationed in South Korea
Source: BBC, Reuters, Dallas Morning News research
Graphic: Troy Oxford, Dallas Morning News

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NMI closely monitoring N. Korea threat

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Inos administration is keeping a close eye on the North Korean military's fresh threat Thursday to attack U.S. bases in Japan and Guam, which is the CNMI's closest neighbor.

Press secretary Angel A. Demapan

said yesterday that Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider "continue to keep a close eye on this developing situation."

He also said the Inos administration understands that the U.S. Department of Defense is closely monitoring this issue and taking precautionary measures in re-

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CHCC opts not to renew Babauta's contract

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

in disarray.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board voted yesterday not to renew the contract of CEO Juan N. Babauta due to alleged failure to provide adequate leadership and strategic direction to the corporation, leaving its facilities and employees

The board adopted by a 6-0 vote yesterday the committee report that enumerated Babauta's many alleged failures.

His \$96,000 per annum contract is expiring on July 9.

Trustees who voted to get rid of Babauta were board chair Joaquin

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RELATED NEWS

► Inos to consult with board, Babauta on contract. PAGE 5

DPW secretary replaced; Pete A. is acting DPL chief. PAGE 5
Fletcher's contract renewed for two more years. PAGE 8

Local

\$48K rehab project on Mt. Tapochao finished

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

With the Mt. Tapochao rehabilitation project done, Gov. Eloy S. Inos said that efforts must now focus on maintaining the site.

"I ask involved government agencies to take ownership of Mt. Tapochao and make sure we maintain the site and keep it clean," said Inos yesterday.

Inos led other island leaders and business executives in a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the completion of the \$48,000 project.

The rehabilitation of the island's highest point was made possible through funds from the Marianas Visitors Authority, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and Tournament of Champions.

The project, which broke ground in late August last year, finished on March 9, three months behind the targeted date last December.

Hector Sevilla of CMI, contractor for the project, blamed the delay on the weather and the uninterrupted influx of visitors to the area throughout the duration of the project.

The site now has galvanized railings interposed with latte stone-shaped balusters or pillars, a bigger viewing deck that gives visitors a 360-degree view of the island, and installation of signs that provide a historical background of the area.

The project's completion coincides with the gathering of Catholics and other Christian believers at the peak of Mt. Tapochao for the annual Good Friday trek next week.

"This project proves that public-private partnership can work," Inos said in his remarks, adding that the improvements made in the area would add to the popularity of Mt. Tapochao as a tourist site.

Gloria Cruz Cavanagh,

HANMI vice chair, agrees. She emphasized the importance of cooperation between the government and the private sector at a time when the Northern Marianas is experiencing an upswing in visitor arrivals.

Cavanagh also noted that their 12-member organization can continue to involve itself in destination enhancement activities with the community's support of their fundraisers, including the inaugural Budweiser Go Kart Championship on April 6 at Mariana Resort & Spa's Mariana Seaside Circuit and their Annual Golf Tournament at the Laolao Bay Resort west course in June.

More enhancement work needs to be done on Mt. Tapochao and other attractions in the CNMI, and Inos underscored that public-private partnership is a useful means in leveraging limited resources and strengthening the island's tourism industry for the growth of the local economy.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio said the passage of Public Law 18-1, which will increase the hotel occupancy tax from 10 percent to 15 percent by April 1, would mean a "dedicated stream of revenue" that can be used to enhance the destination.

Tenorio disclosed plans of reinstating the agency's destination enhancement subcommittee, which will develop or prioritize tourism-focused ventures such as the Mt. Tapochao project, which he considers "a very good model" of public-private partnership.

At this point, he said, they are eyeing the rehabilitation of the railings and bathrooms in tourist sites in the northern part of Saipan.

"Our ultimate goal is that we would like to see the continued participation of our private partners to help us co-share and defray the costs so we can do more projects," Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune*.

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Wiseman vacates injunction order vs PPA contractor SDLLC

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman yesterday ruled that the court lacks the power to stop the actions of Saipan Development LLC, the Delaware-based contractor of

FICA lawsuit dismissed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has ruled that Social Security and Medicare taxes—collectively known as Federal Insurance Contributions Act or FICA taxes—are payable on services of foreign workers employed in the CNMI from 2004 to 2008.

Manglona said the CNMI is part of the United States for FICA purposes and that the employee-FICA is an excise tax within the meaning of Section 606(b) of the Covenant.

The ruling grants the U.S. government's motion for judgment in two lawsuits filed by a company and former garment manufacturers on their own behalf and on behalf of some of their former foreign employees.

Manglona dismissed the two lawsuits.

Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd. and defunct garment manufacturer Rifu Apparel Corp. sued the U.S. government to recover allegedly wrongfully paid FICA taxes.

Twelve other defunct garment factories and several Chinese nationals employed by the factories and their affiliates also filed separate but similar lawsuit against the U.S. government.

The plaintiffs alleged that they erroneously withheld taxes from the wages of their then

a controversial \$190.8 million power purchase agreement it signed with former governor Benigno R. Fitial.

Wiseman vacated the preliminary injunction he issued in August 2012 against Saipan Development LLC. That injunction stopped Fitial and co-

employees and paid them to the U.S. government.

Under FICA, employers and employees pay taxes to fund Social Security and Medicare. Employees pay a 6.2 percent tax on wages received. Employers pay an equal amount as an excise tax on wages paid.

In her order Tuesday, Manglona said the applicability of excise taxes that support Social Security is addressed in Covenant Section 606(b): "Those laws of the United States which impose excise and self-employment taxes to support or which provide benefits from the United States Social Security System will...become applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands as they apply to Guam."

The issue in the two lawsuits has already been litigated by a group of CNMI foreign workers and one CNMI employer, Hyunjin (Saipan) Corp., in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, said Manglona, citing *Zhang v. United States*.

In *Zhang's* case, Manglona said, the court rejected the same arguments raised by the plaintiffs.

"The instant litigation is, practically speaking, a second bite at the apple," Manglona noted.

Manglona said the analysis of the Marianas Political Status Commission states that all taxes supporting the Social Security System, excise or not, apply to the CNMI.

defendants, including SDLLC, from "continuing, pursuing, and/or performing on the power purchase agreement."

In the same order yesterday, Wiseman amended the preliminary injunction to exclude SDLLC and set out the scope of the injunction.

The amended injunction now applies to just Fitial, Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and their officers and agents. It bars them from performing on the Aug. 3, 2012, power purchase agreement and all associated agreements.

Wiseman prohibited Fitial, San Nicolas, and CUC from spending funds to further the performance of those agreements, including any expenditure related to designing and building a new power

substation.

Wiseman enjoined Fitial, San Nicolas, and CUC from increasing CUC rates so it could raise revenue to perform on the power purchase agreement.

The judge still included Fitial in the injunction as the Office of the Attorney General's motion to substitute the CNMI government for Fitial as defendant remains pending.

The Senate, Rep. Janet U. Maratita (IR-Saipan), and Sen. Ray A. Yumul (IR-Saipan) are suing Fitial, San Nicolas, CUC, and SDLLC over the alleged illegal PPA and sought a preliminary injunction to stop it.

Wiseman granted the preliminary injunction on Aug. 31, 2012.

On Dec. 3, 2012, SDLLC, through counsel William Fitzgerald, filed a motion to va-

cate the preliminary injunction, arguing that the court lacked personal jurisdiction.

In his order yesterday, Wiseman said SDLLC, a private company, is neither a government entity, nor an instrumentality of the CNMI government and that it has no power or ability to spend public funds and no fiduciary duty to taxpayers.

"As such, the court lacks power to enjoin the actions of SDLLC," said Wiseman in vacating the preliminary injunction as to SDLLC.

With respect to the injunction against Fitial, San Nicolas, and CUC, Wiseman said the plaintiffs have shown a likelihood of irreparable harm.

The judge said should CUC be forced to build a power substation, the cost to the ratepayers, many of whom are taxpay-

ers, would be extremely difficult to calculate.

"This is because of the human costs associated with having no electricity. Given the high price of power in the CNMI, and the struggling economy, this concern is not merely speculative," Wiseman said.



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Panel to Senate: Suspend Ayuyu, temporarily cut benefits

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Senate Rules and Procedures Committee chaired by Sen. Victor Hocog (R-Rota) recommends Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu's (Ind-Rota) suspension from all legislative activities and matters and temporary stop to his salary and other office benefits, more than

three months since being imprisoned for criminal charges related to smuggling of dead fruit bats. Ayuyu, 48, is facing additional criminal charges over possession of a cellular phone in his detention cell.

Hocog said the committee, which met on Tinian, will present the recommendations to the full Senate for adoption or rejection at next week's session.

Community members have questioned the Senate's lack of action since last year in disciplining or suspending Ayuyu.

Some said the Department of Public Safety, for example, has already recently suspended all DPS police officers and employees facing criminal charges, but not the Senate.

"We recommend suspension of Ayuyu from any legislative matter and

suspension of his accounts," Hocog told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said the Senate reorganization since the ascension of former president Jude U. Hofschneider to become lieutenant governor, and Ayuyu's delayed court hearings have contributed to the delay in acting on Ayuyu's matter.

Despite being in jail, Ayuyu continues to receive his annual salary of \$39,300, \$76,000 in annual discretionary funds that lawmakers use to hire

staff and for office operations, and a \$4,200 monthly subsistence allowance.

Hocog said if Ayuyu is convicted, the Rules and Procedures Committee will again make recommendation to the full Senate which he said is "most likely expulsion from the Senate."

KOREA

From Page 1

get that the Andersen base...as well as naval bases at Japan's main island and Okinawa, are all within the range of our precision target assets," he said in a statement carried by the Korean Central News Agency.

Military tensions on the Korean peninsula are at their highest level for years, with North Korea—angered by UN sanctions imposed after its nuclear test last month—threatening a second Korean War backed by nuclear weapons.

B-52s have taken part in South Korea-U.S. joint exercises before, but

the Pentagon said it had publicized their use this time to underline U.S. commitment to defending its South Korean ally.

"If the enemy threatens us with nuclear weapons, we will respond with stronger nuclear attacks," the North's army spokesman warned.

Accusing Washington of orchestrating the sanctions resolution adopted by the UN Security Council earlier this month, North Korea has already threatened to launch "pre-emptive" nuclear strikes on unspecified U.S. targets.

North Korea has missiles that can strike South Korea and Japan but has yet to demonstrate it has the capability to fire long-range missiles that could reach the United States.

Nevertheless, U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel announced last week that Washington had decided to bolster missile defenses along the U.S. west coast so as to "stay ahead of the threat" from the North Korean regime.

In Seoul, analysts largely dismissed the North's threat to U.S. bases in Japan as the latest in a long-series of bellicose, attention-grabbing statements from Pyongyang.

"This is just more bluster," said Baek Seung-Joo, who heads the North Korea Research Team at the Korea Institute for Defense Analyses.

"It really seems aimed at shifting responsibility for the current tensions to the US and South Korea conducting their joint military exercises," Baek said.

The response from Tokyo was measured. A foreign ministry official voiced regret at the North's "provocative action" but stressed that it would not trigger a strategic rethink.

"We have been doing all we can to prepare for contingencies, cooperating closely with our security ally the United States and with South Korea, regardless of the North's comment today," the official said.

In December, North Korea used a long-range rocket to successfully place a satellite in orbit.

Although Pyongyang insisted the launch was a purely scientific mission, most of the international community saw it as a disguised ballistic missile test.

CHCC

From Page 1

Torres, vice chair and committee panel chair Pedro Dela Cruz, members Anthony Aguon, Roy Rios, Anthony Raho, and director for Medical Affairs Dr. Sherlene Osman. Babauta was the sole trustee who did not cast a vote during yesterday's meeting.

The vote comes after an extensive performance evaluation on Babauta's performance, including exhaustive interviews not only with the CEO but also some staff and corporate officers. A survey was also done among hospital employees.

Based on the committee's findings, Babauta failed to develop and adopt standard operating procedures for the corporation, to the detriment of the agency and its staff.

In the area of revenue and financial management, Babauta was found ineffective in maintaining a uniform

system of accounting; failed to issue monthly financial reports as required; and failed to adopt and maintain financial controls and policies, resulting in either mismanagement or loss of hospital revenue.

Panel chair Pedro Dela Cruz said that Babauta's leadership failed to remit personnel allotments such as FICA, local taxes, and Medicare, which when compounded totals millions of dollars, putting the corporation and its employees at substantial legal and financial risk.

Board members expressed worry yesterday on the impact of these unremitted personnel allotments, especially at this time of filing tax returns.

According to Dela Cruz, former CFO Alvaro Santos did nothing to address this "serious problem." Dela Cruz said these matters were discovered only after Esther Muña, the corporation COO, was named permanent CFO.

It was also found that Babauta—despite the reduction-in-force being implemented—kept hiring people,

some of them unqualified. New positions were created, according to the report, and that Babauta even gave salary increases of as much as \$1,000 to \$15,000 to "selected" people, causing low morale among other employees.

According to Dela Cruz, among those who were given "unjustified salary hikes" were some corporate officers, directors, and managers. He declined to name them.

Because of the failure to adopt adequate procurement procedures, a substantial amount of hospital supplies and equipment are unaccounted for, the panel said.

Since the corporation's takeover of the hospital in 2011, a permanent and qualified chief financial officer has also not been hired.

The board passed yesterday a resolution endorsing the immediate announcement and hiring of both CEO and CFO for the hospital.

Babauta was blamed for the continued suspension of the MIAP pro-

gram, preventing indigent patients from accessing subsidized medications. He was also criticized for not coming up with a business plan and for failing to cooperate with the Marianas Public Land Trust on the hospital's line of credit.

Board's decision pre-determined

Babauta, who kept silent throughout the short board meeting yesterday, said later he was not surprised by the board action, describing the trustees' move as "pre-determined."

He said he was already made aware by a board member some two weeks ago that "I don't have the numbers [anymore]."

Despite the board's decision, Babauta said he does not feel bad about it. "I don't feel bad about it because I am happy with what I have done and I will continue to do whatever I can to serve this hospital and the people of the CNMI," he said.

CW

From Page 1

kas, responding this month to the Dec. 20 joint letters of three major employer groups in the CNMI, also said the agency is processing extension petitions in a timely manner to prevent delays that will cause a lapse in employment for CW beneficiaries.

He said the joint letter from CNMI groups "correctly noted that CW beneficiaries do not have continuing employment authorization during the pendency of an extension of stay petition."

The Society for Human Resource Management-CNMI Chapter, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands had asked USCIS to allow foreign workers to continue working while waiting for the renewal of their CW permits.

But Mayorkas said USCIS is "not in a position to provide that authorization without a change to the applicable regulations, which is a complex and time-consuming process."

"However, I can assure you that [USCIS] is doing what we can consistent

with current law to address your concerns," Mayorkas said in separate letters to SHRM, HANMI and Chamber.

Alex Sablan, Chamber president, said they appreciate Mayorkas' response but said "there has been, and continues to be, economic harm to employers and employees as a result of those not receiving their CW-1 permit renewals in a timely manner."

"We are not as sympathetic to those employers that have not applied for their renewals 90 days prior to the expiration of their original permits, but for those that have executed in a timely manner, there has to be more than a letter from USCIS saying they'll try to minimize the possibility of lapse," Sablan said.

Nevertheless, the Chamber will respond to Mayorkas, and "continue to work with elected officials here and in Washington, D.C., to seek relief as a result of the disappointing transition of immigration and foreign national employment authority under the CNRA," Sablan added.

Some workers in a hotel, for example, were asked to stop working because they have yet to receive their CW permit extension at a time when tour-

ism and hotel occupancy are picking up, said Rene Reyes, founding president of the Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd., last night.

Reyes said the hotel employer was forced to hire workers from manpower agencies to temporarily replace the CW-1 workers, which he said is not ideal for both the tourism industry, the employer, and the hotel workers.

"Now hotel employers have to hire those that don't have much experience working at hotels and this is not good for the important tourism industry. The CW workers who have been with the hotel for years are idle and are not paid, resulting in suffering for them and their family. This is lost income for them and it's not their fault," Reyes told *Saipan Tribune*.

Maria Luisa Dela Cruz-Ernest, president of SHRM-CNMI Chapter, thanked Mayorkas for his response but said: "In SHRM's role of representing the CNMI community's human resource professionals and their companies and employees, we feel that it is necessary to emphasize that we still have a problem."

"We still have workers who are forced to stay home when their visa extensions are not received in time. Any

petitioner who receives a Request for Evidence (RFE) will most likely go beyond the visa expiration date even if the extension was requested 90 days in advance," Ernest told *Saipan Tribune*.

She said SHRM understands the wording of the regulation and the limited authority of USCIS.

"However, there needs to be consideration of our fragile economy and the difficulties that the immigration switchover has caused. We are confident that the U.S. government can, in some way, provide us with some measure of relief. This will continue to be an ongoing problem. We do not wish to accept this as the final word of our USCIS friends. We have already followed up with a second letter on this matter and we urge the USCIS to find a way to assist us with this extremely serious problem," Ernest added.

Mayorkas, in his two-page letter, said USCIS took account of the complexities presented by a variety of immigration situations in the CNMI in implementing the Consolidated Natural Resources Act or CNRA.

CNRA, or U.S. Public Law 110-229, placed CNMI immigration under federal control. The transition period ends

sponse to reported threats.

Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo, in a statement, said "Kim Jong Un and the North Korean regime's threat to destroy U.S. military installations in South Korea, Guam, and the Pacific is unhelpful towards ensuring peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region."

"These statements, once again, are a reminder of the importance of the Obama Administration's refocus on strengthening our defenses in Asia-Pacific and the need for the United States to maintain a prominent role in stabilizing the region and to work closely with our allies. Again, I remain confident in our nation's defense capabilities in protecting the United States and Guam from any threats or attacks to our security," she said.

The statement from the Supreme Command of the Korean People's Army was carried by North Korea's state-run news agency, on the heels of the United States' announcement week that its B-52 bombers were making flights over South Korea as part of military exercises.

"The U.S. should not forget that the Anderson Air Force Base on Guam where the B-52s take off and naval bases in Japan proper and Okinawa where nuclear-powered submarines are launched are within the striking range of the DPRK's precision strike means," the North Korean military said Thursday.

DPRK is short for Democratic People's Republic of Korea, North Korea's official name.

National news outlets said tensions have spiked in the region after North Korea carried out its latest underground nuclear test in February, prompting the UN Security Council to respond by toughening sanctions on the secretive regime.

on Dec. 31, 2014.

CW latest statistics

When asked for the latest statistics, USCIS deputy press secretary Marie Therese Sebrechts said that from Oct. 7, 2011, through March 12, 2013, USCIS approved 5,248 CW petitions consisting of 10,536 beneficiaries or workers.

This is 83 percent of the total number of workers petitioned, which is 12,632.

Some 1,914 employers submitted 6,288 I-129CW petitions.

Sebrechts said a total of 618 petitions were denied for a host of reasons, consisting of 862 beneficiaries.

There were also three petitions denied because of "fraud," consisting of three beneficiaries.

Renewals

As of March 12, USCIS had data entered 1,307 petitions for I-129 CW extension with the same employer, said Sebrechts. These petitions were filed by some 544 different employers.

As of March 12, there were 1,294 beneficiaries that were granted CW-1 extensions. This is 66 percent of 1,956 CW-1 workers sponsored in these petitions.

DPW secretary replaced; Pete A. is acting DPL chief

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos appointed yesterday afternoon Martin C. Sablan to his old post as Department of Public Works secretary, shortly after the governor accepted DPW secretary Anthony A. Camacho's courtesy resignation effective at the end of this week. It's only been a little over a month since the Senate confirmed Camacho's appointment on Feb. 15.

Sablan, who was removed by former governor Benigno

R. Fitial in March 2012, will begin serving as acting DPW secretary on Monday, March 25, while he awaits action from the Senate.

In a phone interview, Sablan said he's grateful for the governor's confidence in him.

"I will be putting 110 percent of my attention to help accomplish the administration's plans to move projects that have been pending. We will take a close look at all pending projects," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

The governor transmitted Sablan's appointment to the

Senate yesterday for its advice and consent.

Acting DPL secretary

The governor also designated yesterday his senior policy adviser, Pedro A. Tenorio, as acting Department of Public Lands secretary while the one-month-old Inos administration selects a new DPL secretary subject to Senate confirmation.

"As the governor and lieutenant governor continue working on organizing their Cabinet, one of their major decisions will be on the appointment of a new secretary for DPL. While Gov. Inos and Lt. Gov. Hofschneider evaluate potential nominees for this position, they have full confidence that Mr. Tenorio will be able to take on the management

of DPL in the interim," press secretary Angel Demapan said.

It's only been a week since Tenorio was named senior policy adviser.

On Thursday, the governor also recalled from the Senate

the nomination of Pedro Itibus as DPL secretary, while at the same time rejecting the courtesy resignation of Division of Environmental Quality director Frank Rabauliman.

As of yesterday, Inos has yet

to decide on the other courtesy resignations and appointments, including the new Department of Community and Cultural Affairs secretary, a post that Rep. Janet Maratita (IR-Saipan) has been eyeing.

Inos to consult with CHCC board, Babauta on contract

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos has already been told about the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board's decision not to renew the contract of CEO Juan N. Babauta, according to press secretary Angel A. Demapan yesterday.

However, the governor has yet to decide whether or not to concur with it, pending a meeting with the board and Babauta himself.

"While this matter has now been forwarded to the Office of the Governor for review and disposition, Gov. Inos will now have to consult the CEO and the board on their findings before he renders a decision," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Despite the ongoing issues between the corporation and the CEO, Demapan emphasized that critical issues at the corporation—both local and federal—continue to be addressed.

The U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has

put off decertifying the public hospital to July 1, 2013, after accepting the corporation's plan on how it will resolve problems at the hospital.

Babauta's \$96,000 employment contract is expiring on July 9. Whether he will be gone before then is up to the governor, who will make the final decision. The board acts in an advisory capacity only.

Babauta said yesterday that he and Inos had a one-on-one meeting just days after Inos became governor. At that time, Babauta handed his courtesy resignation to the governor.

"[But] he wanted me to stay on...at least until the end of my contract," said Babauta.

According to corporation board chair Joaquin Torres, Babauta's contract stipulates that the board can terminate his contract with or without cause.

Babauta earlier submitted to the board a 10-page self-evaluation report highlighting the progress made at the hospital since the corporation took over in 2011.

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Tinian mayor decries 'uncooperative' stance of DPL rep

TINIAN—In a genuine effort to work cooperatively with the Department of Public Lands and the Department of Defense on the management of grazing permits on military leaseback lands, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz requested acting secretary of Public Lands Pedro Itibus for copies of the active grazing permits on Tinian's leaseback lands.

According to the Tinian

Mayor's Office, the "knee-jerk response from Tinian's DPL representative, Ray Cing, was less than cooperative."

Cing reportedly issued a public notice stopping the agricultural grazing permit program immediately on Tinian.

"Any questions the Tinian representative had could have been easily resolved with a phone call or visit to the may-

or," said Dela Cruz.

Dela Cruz wrote Itibus yesterday to clarify the issue and to ask him to rescind Cing's actions. Rather than stop the permitting process, the mayor is encouraging existing ranchers to increase their herds and other members of the community to consider becoming involved in the development of Tinian's cattle industry.

Tinian has been the "meat market" of the Marianas since the Spanish started raising cattle here in the mid-1700s. The wild cattle on Tinian were critical to the food supply for Guam and Saipan throughout the Spanish and German administrations. The herd survived the Japanese occupation and World War II, to be revitalized by Guam businessman Ken Jones in 1965. Today, there are about 2,000 head of cattle on Tinian, all owned by local ranchers.

"Our goal is to increase the herd to 5,000 head to make it sustainable for commercial harvest, not to stop it or slow it down. However, at the same time we must abide by our obligations to the military officials who have agreed to allow us to graze cattle on their leased lands. We were recently told, informally, by a navy representative that they thought there were 'squatters' living on ranches within the leaseback area. We assured them there were not, but agreed to look into the issue. That is why I wrote a simple note to acting secretary Itibus, asking him for copies of the

current grazing permits. With that, my office could work cooperatively with the local DPL representative to verify if any leasers are abusing their permit by actually living on the property. This should have been a very simple process for the local DPL representative. I can think of no obvious reason why Mr. Cing would want to shut down the program," said Dela Cruz.

The Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan has been working with Arthur Camacho and Crystal Cing Cabrera of the Department of Public Works on the design and construction of a "Harvest Unit" for Tinian. The design is almost complete and should be ready for bid shortly.

This small building, to be located at the Tinian Department of Natural Resources compound, will be USDA-approved for the slaughter of cattle and pigs. The primary purpose of the unit is to provide a clean environment for the slaughter of cattle for private consumption, rather than the traditional method of killing a cow under a tree and slaughtering it in an unsanitary environment.

Having the unit USDA-approved will allow wholesale/retail businesses to purchase a cow, have it slaughtered under USDA-approved conditions, and package it for resale. This will not only provide an income to private cattle ranchers, but will also substitute locally-grown, grass-fed, Tinian beef for imported frozen beef, thus recirculating cash within the island economy.

To make the industry sustainable, however, the mayor is asking Tinian ranchers to increase their herds and encourage more ranchers to join the industry. A small ranch tending only 20 head of cattle can provide a significant income to Tinian's retirees.

"I am hopeful that acting secretary Itibus will direct Mr. Cing to rescind his public notice stopping the agricultural grazing permit program immediately, deliver the requested documents immediately, and from now on work more cooperatively with my office for the good of the people of this municipality," said Dela Cruz. (*Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan*)

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New Japanese consul vows to promote Japan-NMI ties

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Newly appointed Consul Koji Hino vows to cultivate the friendly relations between Japan and the Northern Marianas as he takes the helm of the Consular Office of Japan on Saipan.

Hino, who arrived on island on March 8 with his wife Reiko, was formally introduced to the community in a ceremony last week. He replaces Tsutomu Higuchi who served in the same capacity for five years.

In an interview Monday, Hino said his major task besides promoting ties between the two jurisdictions is to be of assistance to Japanese nationals who travel to the CNMI for leisure or business.

While noting that the number of Japanese tourists has declined since the pullout of Japan Airlines, Hino assured that it will not reach zero given that the Commonwealth "is very near and much less expensive" compared to other U.S. destinations such as Hawaii or the mainland.

"Saipan is very close to Japan. In that sense, the Japanese can enjoy cheap travel. In that sense, I think we can expect more tourists in the future," he

told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Hino, Saipan is "a very nice place" that is "mainly for tourists who are looking at spending their vacation golfing or doing other water activities such as swimming and snorkeling.

Although it is "theoretically possible" to see an influx of Japanese tourists on the islands, Hino said that would still depend on the economic situation of the East Asian country.

"The Japan economy can pick up or go down," he said. "Our political system has been changed recently so we have to wait and see if the situation would improve and become better."

When asked about any concerns regarding crimes perpetrated against tourists, Hino said the same problem exists everywhere around the world but cautioned Japanese nationals to be "very, very careful" with their valuables.

"Criminal people have become very clever," said Hino, himself falling prey to pickpockets in Germany and Russia. He reminded tourists to take simple precautions like not placing money or other valuables in vulnerable places and



Koji Hino

being alert at all times.

Hino also underlined the need to prepare for any eventuality similar to what happened in Guam, an "unfortunate incident" wherein three Japanese tourists were killed

when a young man rammed his car in a store in the island's tourist district and randomly stabbed bystanders.

Asked how long he will be here in the CNMI, Hino said a consul's term varies, although it is usually served for about two to three years. His predecessor, who had a five-year term, was a "very exceptional case."

Hino hails from Kamakura City, a "very old" city south of Tokyo dubbed as "Samurai City" and is a popular tourist destination for its Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines.

Following his graduation from the Yokohama City University where he majored in international law, Hino began his career with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and became a

specialist of the Russian language after studying it in Great Britain and the Moscow State University.

Throughout his 30 years as a diplomat, Hino was detailed in various locations throughout Asia and Europe, including Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Russia, and Hong Kong. His last consular assignment was in Mongolia where he stayed for over a year.

Having worked in big cities and cold climate, Hino said Saipan's tropical weather makes a big difference for him. He particularly likes how travel within the island is easier and faster.

A father of one, Hino said he loves the Russian culture for its novels and jazz music and misses going to theaters and

opera houses.

The administration said in a statement that they are pleased to welcome Hino and look forward to working with him in the same spirit of collaboration and cooperation that Higuchi has shown.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider thanked Higuchi for his friendship and services during his five-year tour of duty in the Commonwealth, adding that he will be missed.

"During his assignment here, the administration had the opportunity to work closely with Consul Higuchi on matters that were important to the local Japanese community and tourists who visit our islands," the statement added.

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Fletcher's contract renewed for two more years

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Inos administration has renewed the contract of Alan Fletcher, the highest ranking official at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., who was earlier fired by Gov. Eloy S. Inos' predecessor, Benigno R. Fitial, due to some differences.

Fletcher's contract was renewed for another two-year term as deputy executive director of CUC.

Fletcher's original two-year contract was not renewed by the former governor and his last day was supposed to be on Feb. 28, 2013. By then, however, Fitial had already resigned and Inos extended Fletcher's contract for another 30 days. That 30-day



Fletcher

extension was to expire today, March 22.

Press secretary Angel A. Demapan confirmed Fletcher's contract renewal yesterday, adding that the decision was in consultation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"Gov. Inos has renewed Mr. Fletcher's contract as deputy director. As was his initial con-

tract, this renewal is with EPA consultation and approval," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that Fletcher will continue as the agency's deputy officer for the water and wastewater division.

Fletcher is currently off-island and unable to comment on his re-appointment.

The primary responsibility of the deputy executive director is to oversee all drinking water and wastewater operations and compliance activities and deliverables, on a daily basis.

CUC has been under an emergency declaration since May 2012. It has had no permanent executive director since June 24, 2012, when Abe Utu Malae quit.

In an earlier statement, De-

mapan said that without a permanent executive director, Fletcher is expected to continue serving the post in an interim capacity.

Both deputy director and executive director posts are requirements of federal stipulated orders for CUC. A few months ago, former governor Fitial submitted to EPA four executive director candidates for its concurrence. EPA later found these nominees unqualified.

CUC is still under a state of emergency and is working to address the requirements of two stipulated orders. These orders represent the agreement between the CNMI and EPA based on the requirements of the Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 22, 2004

Legal issues snag land payments

The land compensation process is being snagged by various unresolved legal issues surrounding the private properties of land claimants. These include pending court proceedings and current lease arrangements. "Land compensation is somewhat complicated. It's not a simple distribution of money, but a meticulous process of checking and counterchecking the documents," said MPLA chairperson Ana Demapan-Castro in an interview. In many cases, she said, the ownership of lands due for compensation need to be cleared first in court as they involve names of people other than the ones written in the original document. Sometimes, she said, marital issues such as divorce also affect the land compensation process.

MPLA removes homestead priority category

The Marianas Public Lands Authority Board of Directors has voted to remove a priority category for its homestead program, allowing now its many applicants to have their applications processed on first-come, first-served. The board during its special meeting Thursday approved the move to get rid of the policy that identifies a certain group of people, such as married couples with children, as a priority. "We've removed the priority category. It's now first-come, first served basis. It only makes sense that we do that," MPLA chairperson Ana Demapan-Castro said in an interview. She noted that many unmarried applicants who turned in their applications years back could never be a priority unless they marry under the previous policy.

Mar. 22, 2005

CUC posts \$6.4M net loss

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. posted a net loss of \$6.4 million in the first four months of fiscal year 2005, as a \$5.6-million increase in production fuel costs offset the \$2.1 million that CUC had managed to cut from its administrative expenses. An unaudited financial statement issued by CUC showed that the utility firm generated total operating revenues of \$23.8 million from October 2004 to January 2005, a 1-percent decrease from the \$24.1 million total revenues collected in the same period last year. CUC attributed the decline primarily to billing adjustments and to a lesser extent, decrease in usage of existing customers.

Oversight board wants La Mode inspection

The Garment Oversight Board said yesterday that it would request for a special inspection of La Mode, in connection with the monitoring of garment factories' compliance with a court-approved settlement agreement that ended a class action suit against them nearly two years ago. Board chair Timothy Bellas said that Veritae, a private contractor tasked to conduct the monitoring, would first conduct its inspection of La Mode and submit its recommendation to the board, before the latter decides on whether or not to impose sanction on the garment firm. The board has the power to place a garment manufacturer on probation. That status temporarily suspends the manufacturer from accepting orders from apparel retailers that are part of the settlement agreement.

Mar. 22, 2006

MPLA OK'd \$68K leave for Eliptico

The Fitial administration intends to terminate a 2004 contract executed by the defunct Marianas Public Lands Authority allowing former MPLA deputy commissioner Frank Eliptico to receive half his salary while completing a master's degree. The contract, signed on Dec. 31, 2004, allowed Eliptico to go on educational leave for two years to obtain a master's degree in business administration. During this period, he will receive \$34,000 a year, which represents 50 percent of his regular salary with the agency. "We will look into the legal aspect of the contract. It's not right that some people have to make do with shorter work hours or reduced salary, while a privileged few are getting paid \$34,000 to go and get a master's degree."

Govt goes slow on work-hour, wage cuts

The Fitial administration remains determined to implement a work-hour or wage reduction scheme but it is taking its time to do so. Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said "the cut won't happen immediately." And the reduction would either be hourly or salary percentage. This means that some employees' work time would not be reduced at all-only their compensation. "There are two considerations. One is hourly. The other one is compensation reduction," Reyes said. Further, the reduction program would not affect some government employees.

If You Purchased and/or Paid for Flonase or Generic Flonase

A Class Action Settlement Could Affect You

A proposed Settlement has been reached in a class action lawsuit regarding the prescription nasal spray Flonase. The lawsuit claims that the seller of Flonase violated state laws by delaying the availability of generic versions of Flonase. The seller is SmithKline Beecham Corporation doing business as GlaxoSmithKline ("GSK"). GSK denies it has done anything wrong but agreed to the Settlement to resolve the controversy and to avoid the cost and expense of further litigation.

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What does the Settlement Provide?

GSK will pay \$35 million into a Settlement Fund to settle all claims in the lawsuit brought on behalf of consumers and health insurers known as Third-Party Payors or "TPPs." A group of TPPs called Settling Health Plans ("SHPs") also settled with GSK under a separate agreement for \$11 million. To make sure their payments were approximately

proportionate to those of Class Members, SHPs may receive payments from or contribute payments to the Class Settlement Fund.

Class Counsel will ask the Court to award attorneys' fees in an amount not to exceed one-third of the Settlement Fund, plus interest, litigation expenses and incentive payments to the Class Representatives. After these deductions and any SHP payments, the remainder of the Class Settlement Fund will be distributed *pro rata* to Class Members.

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The amount of money you are eligible to receive will depend on how much you paid for Flonase and generic Flonase and on how much other Class Members and SHPs paid and/or reimbursed.

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What are my other rights?

If you do not want to be legally bound by the Settlement, you must exclude yourself from the Settlement. The exclusion deadline is **May 3, 2013**. If you stay in the Settlement you will not be able to sue GSK for any claims relating to the Settlement. You will be bound by all the Court's orders. However, if you stay in the Settlement, you may object to it by **May 3, 2013**.

The Court will hold a hearing on **June 3, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.** to consider whether to approve the Settlement and a request for attorneys' fees, expenses and incentive awards. The Court has appointed attorneys to represent the Class. You or your own lawyer may ask to appear and speak at the hearing at your own expense.

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 LB.

Celo Apple
\$3⁹⁹
 /BAG

Orange
\$1⁰⁹
 LB.

Honeydew/Cantaloupe
99¢
 LB.

Korean Pear
\$2⁹⁹
 LB.

U.S. X-Large Eggs
\$2²⁹
 1 DOZ.

NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD |
Dawn Dishwashing Soap
\$8⁹⁹
 90 oz.

\$1⁴⁹
 12.5 OZ.

Joy Ultra
\$6⁹⁹
 90 OZ.

\$4⁴⁹
 50 OZ.

Purex
\$5⁷⁹
 50 OZ.

Gain Liquid
\$8⁹⁹
 100 OZ.

\$15⁹⁹
 102 Loads

Gain Powder
\$16⁹⁹
 120 Loads

Charmin Ultra Strong Tissue
\$6⁹⁹
 24 Rolls

Head & Shoulders All Kinds
\$5⁴⁹
 230Z.

\$7⁹⁹
 Shampoo

Suave Shampoo and Conditioner
\$3⁰⁰
 2 for

Bounty Paper Towel
\$18⁹⁹
 15 Rolls

Charmin Basic Toilet Paper
\$7⁹⁹
 12 ROLLS

\$14⁹⁹
 24 ROLLS

Foam Plates
\$3²⁹
 50 CT

\$7⁹⁹
 125 CT

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

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EDITORIAL

Let's go more boldly

"Space: the final frontier. These are the voyages of the starship Enterprise. Its five-year mission: to explore strange new worlds, to seek out new life and new civilizations, to boldly go where no man has gone before."—James T. Kirk

A new *Star Trek* movie comes out in May. No doubt fans of the cult-status films that descended from the original 1960s TV series will flock to theaters to experience it in 3-D, many still believing Captain Kirk's mission statement was prescient.

But in these days of fiscal cliffs and sequestration, the space administration, like other federal agencies, is taking budget hits that have some proponents of space exploration wondering if President Obama meant it three years ago when he said, "I am 100 percent committed to the mission of NASA and its future."

Obama tried to energize the space program by encouraging entrepreneurship. But his privatization model needs to be recalibrated. SpaceX, Boeing, and Sierra Nevada Corp. are developing space vehicles to carry crews, but since most of their money comes from NASA, not venture capitalists, the space agency's budget cuts hinder their progress.

Mike Griffin, who ran NASA during the Bush administration, says the private space companies need an incentive beyond dwindling federal funds. Instead of limiting them to developing craft that, like the mothballed space shuttles, achieve only low Earth orbit, give them a more lucrative goal, he says.

Griffin told reporters in Huntsville, Ala., home of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, that missions to supply the International Space Station are not "a big enough or long-lasting enough market" to attract capital for commercial space enterprises. He said a more viable market would result if a moon base were created for deep-space missions.

That idea was nixed last year when Obama said that instead of a return to the moon, he would prefer to invest in a new propulsion system that could take men to Mars by 2037. That approach seems logical, as *Star Trek's* Mr. Spock would say. But it will be hard to ever reach Mars if NASA's budget keeps being cut. The sequester will trim its \$17.8 billion budget by \$894 million.

If a new poll is to be believed, the public would back Obama if he cranked up the fiscal engine for deep-space exploration. A survey for the communications firm Phillips & Co. and the nonprofit Explore Mars found that 76 percent of Americans would support raising NASA's budget to 1 percent of the federal total, from the current 0.5 percent, for exploration of faraway places like Mars.

Absent a funding boost, NASA needs Congress to stop treating it like a jobs machine. Underused NASA facilities could be closed to produce savings, but lawmakers protecting jobs stand in the way. A *Florida Today* writer suggests NASA needs the equivalent of the military's base-closing commission, whose decisions couldn't be overruled by politicians. He's right.

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THE WHITE HOUSE NAMES PUNXSUTAWNEY PHIL AS
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

Drunkenness isn't the same as consent

By SANDY BANKS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

It would be easy to close the book and say justice has been served in the Steubenville, Ohio, rape case.

Two high school football stars were found guilty Sunday of raping an intoxicated 16-year-old at a party in a case that became a national scandal after videos and photos of the assault wound up on YouTube and Instagram.

The text messages, pictures and jokey tweets that teenagers from the party shared online suggest a communal lack of conscience. That made it easy to blame locals so enamored of their football team that jocks thought they could get away with just about anything.

But this isn't just about the athletes and small-town ennui.

We've had similar episodes here: Ten years ago, an Orange County girl was raped and sodomized with a bottle, cigarette and pool cue by three 17-year-olds who turned the attack into a homemade porn video. In 2009, a girl was gang-raped for hours outside a homecoming dance in Northern California while young people watching sent text messages inviting their friends to join them.

There's something beyond cellphones and criminal conduct that ties the two cases to what happened in Steubenville.

All three victims were 16-year-old girls who were so intoxicated during the assaults they could not remember what happened.

That doesn't excuse the conduct of the young men; what they did was not only illegal but horrifically immoral.

But it is an ingredient in this toxic stew that we can't afford to keep ignoring.

One in five teenage girls today goes on regular drinking binges. I'm not talking about college students, but 15-, 16- and 17-year-olds, who down four drinks or more in a single session at least once a month.

If you count occasional binge drinking, half of 10th-grade girls engage and more than 60 percent of seniors, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

As the mother of three daughters, I stumble over my feelings when cases like this occur.

I've always tried to remind my girls, now grown, about choices that might make them vulnerable: how they dress, whom they hang out with, how much alcohol they drink.

But conversations like that are hard to have without sounding like you're blaming the victim.

I know whose side I'm on. I'm beyond angry at teenage boys who view girls as objects and violate them callously.

But I'm also worried about teenage girls who wake up in the morning and don't know what happened while they were blacked out from drinking.

I understand the reluctance in this case to talk about the victim. No one wants to heap scorn on a girl who's suffered such indignities.

But ask yourself: What if that was my daughter who woke up in

a strange basement, naked and unable to find her cellphone or her panties?

According to testimony at the trial, the Steubenville victim had been so intoxicated the night before, she fought her friends when they tried to get her to leave the party. She was so drunk she could barely speak, stumbled when she tried to walk and sank to her knees in the middle of the street to vomit ... en route to a second party.

That's what binge drinking does. A friend testified that they had shared at least half a bottle of vodka.

The two boys convicted of rape told the court their sexual encounters were consensual. The videos, texts and tweets told another story.

The girl testified, tearfully, for hours. But she had to rely on texts and videos—of boys manhandling her naked—because she had no memory of what happened.

It's possible that the boys who assaulted her and the teenagers who watched and joked about it are soul-less kids who didn't care about the victim. But it's also possible that they are self-centered, impulsive and ignorant about the difference between sleazy and illegal.

During trial, there were boys who told the judge they didn't know that what they had witnessed was rape.

If that is true, it reflects the sort of confusion that suggests we adults have work to do.

For a long time we've relied on the slogan "No means No" to empower girls and let boys know that it's not OK to talk your way to consent.

But when 10th-graders are routinely getting too drunk to resist, then we need to add a message to that lesson: It's against the law to have sexual relations with a person who is too intoxicated to agree. If you think she's had too much to drink, then you'd better back off.

We have to impress upon our sons and daughters the dangers of binge drinking, which has become the norm at too many high school parties. But first we have to face the reality that these are not the keggers of our youth. There are more ways than before to get wasted.

And dozens of people with cellphones ready to record it.

Investigators are not done with the Steubenville case. Before the trial they seized 15 cellphones, sifted through hundreds of thousands of videos and texts and interviewed 60 people. Now they plan to use a grand jury to bring more indictments.

But beyond the legal maneuvering and punishment after the fact, more needs to happen in homes and schools to keep teenagers on the right track.

We need to make this an object lesson, and not just about what happens when you cross the line and sex becomes a crime. But what can happen when you get so drunk that you have to rely on texts and tweets to know what happened to you the night before.

Sandy Banks is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times. Readers may send her email at sandy.banks@latimes.com.

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From here to eternity

Springtime is supposed to renew our outlooks with fresh thinking. Well, this time around I read a creepy story that has made for fresh thinking, but it has more of an autumn feel to it.

Here's the thought: Maybe the ultimate tech product, immortality, is on the horizon.

Indeed, perhaps soon they'll be plopping live brains into jars of fluid, hooking machines up to them, and they'll chug along forever, or at least for a few hundred years. I guess "plopping" is a term bereft of scientific precision, so you can substitute your own verb as your sensibilities dictate.

As for the brain-in-a-jar gig, plopped in or otherwise, it's an old notion. Roald Dahl wrote a short story about it, *William and Mary*, in 1959. In the story a brain is successfully sustained on life support and connected to a single eyeball.

I read that story when I was a kid. It didn't make much of an impression on me then. But I took another look at it this week, and it occurred to me how feasible the idea probably is now.

Well, if Mr. Dahl was 1.0 on that concept, we can go 2.0 and add some features to the jar-brain. Just minor tweaks. Let's add an audio nerve, which can be stimulated by electric impulses from a music and movie player, and maybe some other stimulation electrodes as well.

Once read that people will soon be able to navigate screens using mere eyeball movement, or perhaps even by brain waves. Or maybe they already can. But, either way, this gig will close the circle, allowing the brain to interact with, and influence, the stimulus it gets. The feedback loop is completed.

So a disembodied brain will be able to watch movies, Web surf, send text messages, listen to music, and do social media.

Drag effects of huge debts

We talk of the disastrous economy with hopeful prayers that something would break for the better. For the most part, the disaster is the combined result of a global crisis exacerbated by the "no growth" policy of the former governor who resigned in disgrace.

He's left a huge fiscal sinkhole or vacuum as new leadership wrangles with subterranean misery. The former governor sank disastrous economic misery deeper by shafting economic opportunities with his cherry picking of investments. It's bad policy full square!

We look at the fiscal colossus across the playground of ruination and ponder where to begin. More specifically, would we be able to shift the course of history of significant decline in revenue generation, the last-crown jewel of former governor Nigno Fitial? Specifically has the threshold of government debt normally set by economists (85 percent vs. GDP) gone overboard? Would dire fiscal conditions still grant opportunities for growth or is it more of a heavy drag? Is there any ray of hope to build upon good governance under these dire conditions?

As convoluted or confusing the issue may be for most lay people, I can't help but devolve into divine providence where I quiz what's coming down the pike under a heavy pile of debts.

The CNMI isn't in a recession but a depression. The effect is quadruple where persistent devastation digs deeper given the magnitude of destruction and accompanying disorientation. There's no denying it is below water (way above the threshold in this case). Its projected revenue is around \$114 million. Mirrored against debts: \$375 million for the Fund, PSS and CHC requires at least \$40 million apiece, other services excluding daily accumulation of debts from deficit spending. What's the implication of violating the threshold on debts?

A study on debts by the Bank of International Settlements says, "Our results support the view that, beyond a certain level, debt is a drag on growth. The immediate implication is that countries with high debt must act quickly and decisively to address their fiscal problems. The longer-term lesson is that, to build the fiscal buffer required to address extraordinary events, governments should keep debt well below the estimated thresholds." A bit difficult in our case

And what do people do now? The same things, only without the jar. So the difference isn't conceptual, it's merely mechanical.

You don't have to be a sci-fi wizard to envision vast warehouses of jar-brains living virtual lives, living lives of blissful connectivity.

Some day you'll hear about a friend of yours falling ill and passing away, only to get an e-mail from him two months later, saying "Sorry I fell off the radar screen. After I was harvested I had memory problems and couldn't remember my e-mail password, but after they adjusted my sucrose and potassium ratio I got better."

You won't even be able to tell who is living in normal meat-space, and who is living in jar-space. It's all the same on the screen. And, these days, the screen is what counts.

Married folks could opt for jar-brain couples packages, so there would never be any "death do us part." Instead, you'd just "upgrade" to the eternal level when the time came. Or, maybe just get the family plan, but, then again, depending on the family, that might be a recipe for eternal torment.

So let's look at the other side of the coin and consider eternal bliss. Bliss in the physical world is constrained by the scarcity of the physical inputs. Come to think of it, it's probably constrained by physical outputs as well. But in the brain-jar world, where things are a mere matter of electrical impulses, there would not be any constraints and there would not be any consequences.

The brain could live in perpetual stimulatory pleasure. That's right: virtual heaven, right here on earth.

Though the concept will be initially sold to the old or infirm, there's no reason young people won't want to voluntarily join the action. For one thing, why postpone the inevitable? And for another, living in meat-space just isn't as nice as jar-space, where you're never hot, or cold, or tired, or scared.

It might even be the socially-responsible thing to do, shedding your meat-body for the cleaner, neater world of jar-living.

given that needs have skyrocketed beyond revenue generation that has gone Deep South.

"Debt is a two-edged sword. Used wisely and in moderation, it clearly improves welfare. But, when it is used imprudently and in excess, the result can be disaster. For individual households and firms, over-borrowing leads to bankruptcy and financial ruin. For a country, too much debt impairs the government's ability to deliver essential services to its citizens.

"Given current policies and demographics, it is difficult to see this trend reversing any time soon. Should we be worried? What are the real consequences of such rapid increase in debt levels? When does its adverse impact bite?

"Finance is one of the building blocks of modern society, spurring economies to grow. Without finance and without debt, countries are poor and stay poor. When they can borrow and save, individuals can consume even without current income. With debt, businesses can invest when their sales would otherwise not allow it. And, when they are able to borrow, fiscal authorities can play their role in establishing the macro-economy.

"But, history teaches us that borrowing can create vulnerabilities. When debt ratios rise beyond a certain level, financial crises become both more likely and more severe" (Reinhart and Rogoff (2009). This strongly suggests that there is a point in which debt becomes excessive. In this instance, our debit is definitely "excessive."

Our needs versus degenerative revenue streams is a gulf that has widened and deepened, a difficult challenge to meet with any reasonable expectation of success. It obviates the need to draw up a set of blueprints for the immediate and long-term.

All must return to the drawing board to weed out regressive policies that have contributed to the economic cataclysm at home. It's vital that lasting policies are drawn up for purposes of economic revival. It's a difficult task, domesticating the beast of negligence that was fed and nurtured by the former governor. The elephant has gotten larger than our living room.

For public officials, it's good to remember that for each year of

But we are talking about the No. 3 person in the political pecking order of the most populous nation in the world (one of every five is a Chinese), and though misspelling is not uncommon since writing shifted from the old colonial Wade-Giles to the Pinyin of post-1949, those of us in the writing profession cannot be cavalier about the proper spelling of people's names. *Mea culpa* is hereby in order!

We do thank HSBC for their press release on the articulated policy of the new administration in the business section of Thursday's edition. Clear and concise, and correct on the spelling of the Premier's name, the opening paragraph is worth repeating: *Premier Li Keqiang told a press conference yesterday that sustaining steady*

By **ED STEPHENS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com.

His column runs every Friday.



Of course, from a marketing perspective, a little bit of window dressing can't hurt. We won't talk of "jars," but, instead, of "virtual bodies," or, more likely, some hip and snappy term that hasn't been invented yet.

Brochure photos of the warehouse interiors will feature nice green plants, like an atrium, with fountains and pools, and tidy walkways for the maintenance crews. It will seem like an indoor park, an inviting place to spend eternity.

Well, the first places will be like that. But as the industry works its way down the market's food chain, shadier places will crop up. The immortality industry will segment into front-end companies and back-end companies.

The front end will be the marketing companies. They will be the visible sales presence to the customers. But they'll sub-out the actual brain sustaining to the back end.

The back end will be the actual providers. These will be third-party operators who compete on raw cost, chasing ever-smaller margins as the industry gets larger and more competitive.

As for me, I'll be working in a dingy office somewhere, smoking a cigar, buying and selling the over/under spreads on lots of 125,000-unit eternity contracts, wondering why I don't just say the heck with it and plop into a jar along with everybody else.

By **JOHN DELROSARIO**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



negligence you relegate the livelihood of the multitude three years back. Combined, Fitial and Inos have done the multitude 18 years of nothing but deepening hardship.

■ ■ ■

On oil purchase from foreign land

We spout bypassing what seems conventional wisdom (overlooking the terms and conditions of the Covenant agreement) hoping to be able to buy fossil fuel from some South American country. Good intention but wrong on every front in that the issue falls within the purview of "foreign affairs" solely the responsibility of the federal government.

In other words, if we wish to buy less expensive fossil fuel from, i.e., Venezuela, we must funnel such request to newly confirmed Secretary of State John Kerry. This is the peculiarity of the agreement we have with the federal government and you can't deny Caesar what's his.

Again, such a plan falls within the realm of "foreign affairs" per the agreement. Work with our D.C. delegate to explore how this is best handled or write directly to the U.S. Secretary of State. It's best that we begin buckling down to understanding the terms and conditions of the agreement against chancing what could result in some very embarrassing situation.

Interesting how people even in responsible positions have little or no inkling of what the Covenant agreement says on issues domestic or foreign and what's our place in each case. It means a quick glimpse into the agreement so we don't fly off to foreign countries convinced we have the sovereign right to represent ourselves, a role solely reserved for the U.S. Department of State. Cleaaaaa?

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Mea culpa

Since *mianzi* (face) was the main metaphor in Wednesday's reflection, ours is red upon discovering how we misspelled the new Premier's name, writing "Li Kejiang" when it is actually "Li Keqiang" in decent Pinyin.

Under normal circumstances, this would have been dismissible. After all, the "all Asians look alike" sentiment I have heard so many times elsewhere applies to names, as well.

growth while controlling inflation will be the top policy goal. Other goals include expanding the middle class, better safety net for the poor and structural transformation. He also promised to act decisively to streamline government and push through fiscal, financial, and RMB reforms.

Oh, just a little note on pronunciation for you emerging Sino-philos in the audience: Li Keqiang is often pronounced *Lee Ke(r) Cheeung*, with the lingering "r" like the way some Gringos say "idea(r)". Claro?

Jaime R. Vergara
Shenyang, China

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲ 87 ▼ 79
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 75
Yap	Showers	▲ 89 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 79

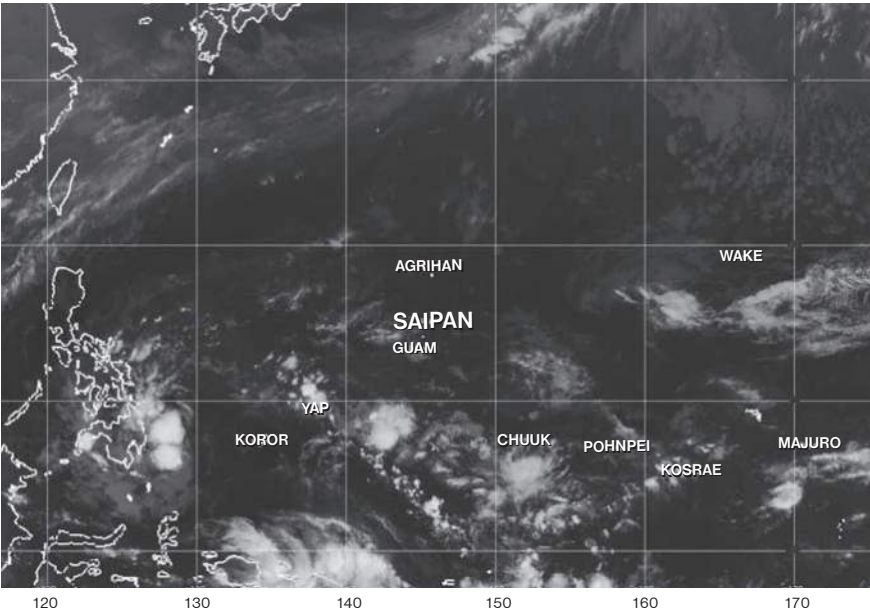
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 61
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 54 ▼ 32
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 77 ▼ 72
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 79 ▼ 69
London	Showers	▲ 41 ▼ 36
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 68 ▼ 50
Manila	Cloudy	▲ 89 ▼ 81
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 75 ▼ 59
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲ 79 ▼ 70
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 43 ▼ 31
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 58 ▼ 46
Paris	Cloudy	▲ 54 ▼ 39
Pusan	Cloudy	▲ 57 ▼ 46
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲ 62 ▼ 45
Salem	Showers	▲ 49 ▼ 33
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 65 ▼ 46
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲ 50 ▼ 31
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 61 ▼ 50
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 51 ▼ 34

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
5:55 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
11:22 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
4:20 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
11:36 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2013

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends southeastward from a broad circulation centered west of Koror at 7N130E to the equator at 141E. Converging low-level winds east of the trough are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Yap or within 100 miles of a line from 12N134E to 9N140E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers south of Chuuk between 1N and 7N from 145E to 156E and also between Pohnpei and Kosrae or within 80 miles of a line from 4N158E to 7N162E to 5N168E. A diffuse shear line extends west-southwestward from 16N171E to north of Chuuk at 12N153E. Upper-level divergence is combining with trade winds converging near the eastern portion of the shear line to trigger scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Wake Island or between 15N and 18N from 162E to 168E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:20 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:19 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:19 AM	6:28 PM
Monday	6:18 AM	6:29 PM
Tuesday	6:17 AM	6:29 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:59 PM	2:13 AM
Saturday	2:50 PM	2:56 AM
Sunday	3:41 PM	3:38 AM
Monday	4:33 PM	4:20 AM
Tuesday	5:27 PM	5:02 AM

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- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5062 4:40am 5:30am 1, 3, 5 UA5068 8:25am 9:15am Daily UA5074 11:10am 12:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5076 3:10pm 4:00pm Daily UA5078 6:55pm 7:45pm Daily UA5072 9:45pm 10:35pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA 5069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5071 7:05am 7:55am Daily UA5073 9:50am 10:40am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 UA5075 1:45pm 2:35pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5077 5:35pm 6:25pm Daily UA5079 8:20pm 9:10pm Daily ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5062 3:35am 4:10am 1, 3, 5 UA5038 10:55am 11:30am 6 SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:45am Daily DL285 6:30am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:25pm Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 1, 5 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 8:50pm 2:10am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:00am 8:35am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:30pm 4:30am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU7108 3:50am 7:40am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU7107 7:40pm 2:50am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO) XF1734 11:55am 5:10pm 5	VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN XF1733 8:00pm 12:05am+1 4
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:35am 9:55am 6 via GUM UA5062/191 4:40am 9:55am 3 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:15pm 2, 4, 5, 7 via NRT DL287/173 6:00am 10:35pm 1, 3, 6 via NRT UA5076/183 3:10pm 8:45pm Daily via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5072/PR111 9:45pm 7:45am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN DL172/288 7:55am 1:15am+1 2, 4, 7 via NRT DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via NRT UA190/5077 10:55am 6:25pm 3, 6 via GUM UA190/5079 10:55am 9:10pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/UA5072 10:15pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 10:55pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 7:55am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5076/147 3:10pm 9:45pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 10:35pm 7:55am+1 1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 1750	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 1020	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

CNMI's Leon Guerrero invited to nat'l student conference

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Alana Leon Guerrero, A former speaker of the CNMI Youth Congress, has been invited to participate in a national event that aims to hone the leadership experience and capabilities of young leaders.

Leon Guerrero was selected among a pool of 1,200 students

to attend the 23rd Annual Students of Color Conference to represent her school.

Leon Guerrero is a full-time student at Clark College in Vancouver, Washington. She is also president of the first-ever Pacific Islanders Club at Clark College. She recently made it to the Vice President's List.

Leon Guerrero also serves on

the Cultural Pluralism Committee that promotes, contributes, facilitates the interaction of a rich variety of cultural, ethnic, and social groups, implementation and evaluation of the college's diversity plan, and creates a system for the col-



Leon Guerrero

lege environment that values and utilizes different perspectives in decision-making.

The CNMI student's participation in the special event was announced by Clark College multicultural retention manager Felisciana Peralta, M.Ed.

"Congratulations! You've been selected among a pool of 1,200 students to attend the 23rd Annual Students of Color Conference to represent Clark College. We are pleased to have you and hundreds of other outstanding students from across Washington State, join us for such a special event. The goal of the Multicultural Student

Services Directors' Council is to provide a fun, educational experience that promotes leadership, diversity, and academic success," states the letter sent to Leon Guerrero.

The conference orientation is slated at the Diversity Center this week and will cover the goals and rules of the conference, among other issues.

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MONDAY - SUNDAY

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10:30 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. • Seafood Special (Sunday)

5:30 P.M. - 10:30 P.M. • Ala Carte (Monday - Sunday)

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SUNDAY BRUNCH

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Every Friday Night

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NMI Judiciary says goodbye to law clerk El-Hajj



NMI JUDICIARY

From left to right, Justice John A. Manglona, Supreme Court law clerk Sean Lowe, Justice Perry B. Inos, departing law clerk Jeff El-Hajj, Judge David A. Wiseman, Supreme Court law clerk Jordan Sundell, and Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro.

At a luncheon on Wednesday, March 20, 2013, justices, judges, and staff of the CNMI Judiciary bid farewell to the popular and highly respected Jeff El-Hajj, who for 16 months was a law clerk for the Supreme Court and its lead law clerk for the last six months.

Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and Associate Justices John A. Manglona and Perry B. Inos presented El-Hajj with a plaque inscribed with words of appreciation attesting to "his exemplary performance as a law clerk, thereby materially contributing to the maintenance of liberty under law through the fair and impartial administration of justice in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands."

In addition to his high caliber work on important cases and other matters before the Supreme Court, El-Hajj's helpfulness to others and valued friendship were cited by his colleagues as very special traits that will truly be missed.

At the lunch, El-Hajj said: "I want to extend my deepest gratitude to everyone for all they have done for me over the past 16 months. As I move on to the California Court of Appeal, my greatest hope is that my new judiciary family will be as wonderful as the one I am leaving behind."

El-Hajj received his bachelor's degree from the University of Southern California and earned his law degree at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, in San Francisco. He departs the Marianas for an appellate court attorney post with the California Court of Appeal for the Sixth Appellate District. (NMI Judiciary)

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*Prayer
to the
Holy Spirit*

Holy Spirit Thou who makes me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory. AMEN.

Say this prayer for three days without mentioning the favor you are asking for. After the third day, the wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Promise to publish this prayer as soon as your favor has been granted.



EARTH HOUR

Tan Holdings is joining the rest of the world this

SATURDAY

23 March 2013

8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

in observance of Earth Hour

**We will be switching off our non-essential
lights for one hour in support of Earth Hour**

We can make a difference in saving our planet

I will if you will!

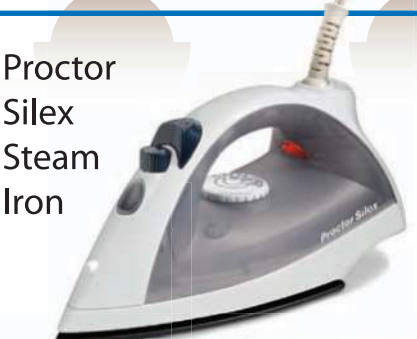
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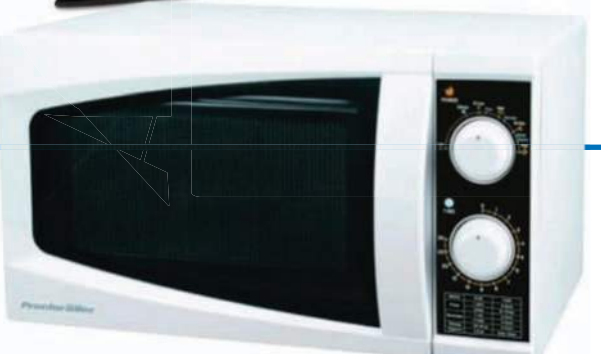
Proctor Silex Steam Iron




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Lasko 20 inch Box Fan



Dirt Devil Breeze Stretch Upright Vacuum



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Essential Home 3 Piece Bath Set



Essential Home Black Floor Lamp



Folding Personal Hand Truck



Jaclyn Smith Storage Futon Dylan



Essential Home Classic Pillow Standard

Mt. Tapochao road undergoes repair for Good Friday

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the observance of Good Friday next week, employees of the Saipan Mayor's Office are hard at work to improve the Mt. Tapochao road in time for the annual pilgrimage among Catholics and other Christians.

Good Friday is a religious holiday commemorating the Passion and Death of Christ. Also called Black Friday, it precedes Easter Sunday, which culminates the Lenten season.

"It is a tradition that the Mayor's Office supports every year," said Mayor Donald G. Flores said yesterday in an interview at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Mt. Tapochao project.

Flores and office staff separately confirmed ongoing efforts



Mayor's Office personnel pose for a photo at the base of Mt. Tapochao during a break from their repair work yesterday.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

APASEEM hosts presentation on research findings

The Northern Arizona University and the Asia Pacific Academy of Sciences, Science Education, and Environmental Management, or APASEEM, are inviting the public to a presentation of initial research findings by 12 students from NAU on topics of island ecology conducted on Saipan over the past several months.

The event will be held today, March 22, 2013, from 1pm to 4:45pm, at the American Memorial Park auditorium. A listing of students speaking and their topics is as follows:

- 1pm-1:15pm: Opening remarks.

- 1:15pm-1:30pm: Factors affecting the species abundance and richness of fish in sea grass beds in the Saipan lagoon. Alling, R.

- 1:30pm-1:45pm: Contemporary medicinal trees: Diversity and use across the island of Saipan. Marshall, M.

- 1:45pm-2pm: Variation in luminescence and insect abundance on bioluminescent fungi. Pletzer, J.

- 2pm-2:15pm: Factors affecting green sea turtle nesting preference in Saipan. Brown, M.

- 2:15pm-2:30pm: Erythrina gall wasps on gaogao trees, and their effect on birds in Saipan. Watson, Z.

- 2:30pm-2:45pm: Intermission

- 2:45pm-3pm: The effect of enrichment strategies and environmental factors on the behavior of captive Mariana fruit bats (*Pteropus mariannus*). Eilers, J.

- 2:45pm-3pm: Effects of sewage effluence on coral reef diversity, richness, and recruitment. Senini, N.

- 3:15pm-3:30pm: Demographics, distribution, and public perceptions of free-ranging dogs on Saipan. Nimer, A.

- 3:30pm-3:45pm: Predation of the small giant clam (*Tridacna maxima*) in Saipan. Roof, K.

- 3:45pm-4pm: Evidence of selective breeding and habitat use in Lambis lam-bis. Raber, S.

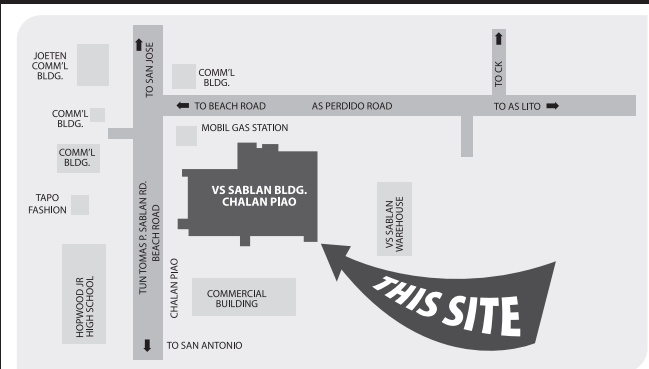
- 4pm-4:15pm: Factors influencing metallic blue ladybird beetle abundance. Hottel, E.

- 4:15pm-4:30pm: Shell use and abandonment in hermit crabs (*Coenobita* spp.). Bulger, B.

- 4:30pm-4:45pm: Closing remarks.

Updates on these and other island ecology research topics will continue to be posted on the APASEEM website, www.apaseem.org. (APASEEM)

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Large 4500 square foot space on the **second floor** that would be ideal for a GYM or Dance Studio at **35¢ per square foot.**

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that began Wednesday last week and will conclude right before the holiday.

A staff representative said about a dozen are involved in the road repair work, which includes filling parts of the road with crushed coral and then leveling them to make the road passable and safe for the thousands of faithful who will trek

uphill leading to the island's highest point.

"We do this every year not just because it's our job but also of the importance of this religious and cultural tradition," he added.

Flores disclosed that they rented a grader, dump truck, and other heavy equipment for this project.

"It's just unfortunate that the equipment we have are not working and need repair as well," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Flores maintained that the Mayor's Office will help pave the Mt. Tapochao road not only during Lent but to make it a regular routine as the CNMI government reinforces its destination enhancement efforts.

CRM guidelines for trash bin donors

The Coastal Resources Management Office thanks all the individuals, clubs, organizations, and businesses who have been donating trash receptacles to be used at beaches around Saipan. CRM appreciates interest of donors in

keeping our islands beautiful and trash free.

However, CRM would like to notify the general public that all interested donors who wish to place a trash receptacle on a beach or anywhere

along the coast must first inform and request CRM for approval. This way CRM is able to ensure that the receptacles are emptied when full and replaced when broken or damaged. (PR)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy birthday Athena Jaycee Leitipscheng! God bless and many more to come. We love you always.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy 7th birthday to Joe Vince M. Taitano Jr.! May the Lord continue blessing you throughout your upcoming years! We love you and hope that you will enjoy your day. Love, Mommy, Daddy, John Boy, CJ Girl, Nina June, and family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Advanced happy birthday to our "Li' Angry Bird," Franklin Jon K. Laniyo, who will be turning 3 tomorrow, March 23. May your day be filled with lots of love and wishes come true! Enjoy your Bird Day! Love always, you loving sister KaiLani and Laluso familia!

RANK PROMOTION

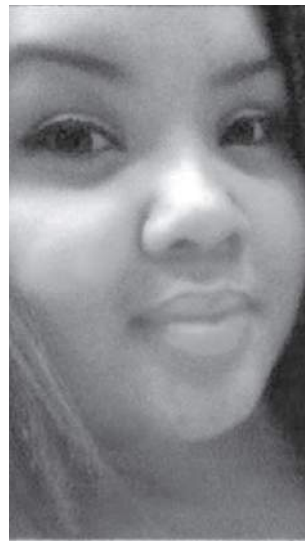
Congratulations to Michael James R. Camacho Jr. on his recent promotion to staff sergeant in the U.S. Army on March 1, 2013, in Wahiawa, Hawaii. We are very proud of you! We miss you and hope to see you soon. God bless, Mom, Dad, Boboy, Bran, and Chris.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GOOD JOB!

Congratulations to our daughter, Krystal P. Reyes, a Saipan Southern High School graduate, for achieving a 4.0 GPA and making it to the Presidential List in the nursing program at Anthem Education in Beaverton, Oregon. We love you, Dad and Mom (James and Maryanne Reyes).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Saipan Call-a-Ride moves to COTA

»Program temporarily suspended

Effective today, March 22, 2013, the Saipan Call-a-Ride program, including its vehicles, will be officially transferred to the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority, according to a CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities statement yesterday.

The program provides transportation services for people with disabilities and the elderly.

At this time, the operation of the Saipan Call-a-Ride trans-

portation services—currently under a volunteer driver program agreement—will be suspended so COTA could perform vehicle inspection, maintenance and repair work, if necessary.

The suspension will also allow COTA enough time to plan and re-evaluate the volunteer driver program agreement until such time that the Saipan Fixed-Flex Route and Para-Transit Services goes online by the end

of this year.

For more information, call COTA's Operations & Maintenance Section at 664-2276 and ask for Steven Pangelinan, Maintenance & Operations coordinator or email steven.pangelinan@gov.mp for operations matter or COTA's Mobility & Transit Section at 664-2276 and ask for Vince Merfalen, Mobility Management & Transit Coordinator or email vince.merfalen@gov.mp for questions concerning ridership. (PR)

New NGO from Tinian on Marianas Agupa

Marianas Agupa will feature Florine Hofschneider, executive director of Gineftao I ManMo'na, and Marquina M. Hofschneider, chairperson, Youth Advisory Council, this Saturday March 23, 2013, between 10am and 10:30am to talk about the vision of this new non-government organization, which aims to promote a quality of life that is as healthy, stable and strong as the Chamorro Latte pillars.

Listeners on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and those listening via streaming are encouraged to call in and ask questions during the show (Direct to studio at 234-5929 or use instant messaging via Marianas Agupa's Facebook account).

The Chamorro radio talk show program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. There will also be a world report and program review

by former mayor Joseph S. Inos, a special segment from Rota with correspondent and commentator Thomas D. Mendiola, from Tinian by correspondent and radio commentator David M. Cing, special report on land and culture by John Del Rosario Sr., and a village report from Antonio R. Cabrera. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. For more information, contact Manglona at 287-4536. (PR)



EASTER Magic

A night of *incredible* illusions starring CEDRICK the MAGICIAN

Charley's Pacific Islands Club Saipan
6:30PM, March 28, 2013
\$15 per person (tourist)
\$8 per person (local resident with valid ID)
(ages 2 and below are free)

Tickets available at PIC front desk
For more information, contact 237-5104 or 237-5172.

www.CedrickMagic.com

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN



NOTICE OF MEETING/CELEBRATION

The Covenant Party of the Northern Mariana Islands is inviting all party members and interested individuals for a general membership meeting on Sunday, March 24, 2013, at Minatchom Atdao Pavilion, Civic Center, Susupe. The meeting will commence at 10:30 AM followed by election of officers and other organizational matters. Luncheon and refreshment will be served thereafter. Activities for children and families will be provided. Please come and join us celebrate Covenant Day.

Thank You
Si Gregorio M. Camacho, Chairman

Paid for by the Covenant Party Treasurer Emma Villagomez.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.mp>



INVITATION FOR BIDS

This ad is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

NMHC IFB 2013-002 Amendment No. 01

Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Saipan

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Saipan.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Friday, March 22, 2013, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Central Office on **Monday, April 1, 2013, at 9:00 a.m.**, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan. Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivisions and inspect several housing units owned by NMHC that will be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. Inquiries regarding this solicitation must be addressed in writing to the NMHC Corporate Director at P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, April 3, 2013.

Sealed bids must be marked **NMHC-IFB 2013-002**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than **10:00 a.m., local time Thursday, April 11, 2013**. Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, Thursday, April 11, 2013**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **Thursday, April 11, 2013**, and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than **Thursday, April 18, 2013**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **10:30 a.m., local time, Friday, April 19, 2013**. However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m., local time on Thursday, April 11, 2013**.

All labor on this project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of \$5.55 per hour which took effect on October 1, 2012 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of \$.50 per hour as announced by the U.S. Department of Labor and/or the CNMI Department of Labor, whichever is higher.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contracts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small, minority businesses and women's business enterprises will be afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires the successful bidder to the "maximum extent feasible", take affirmative steps to provide training, contracting and employment opportunities and help ensure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents in Saipan.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply



UNITED STATES
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities is hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on Tuesday, April 2, 2013, from 1:30pm – 3:30pm at the Governor's Office Conference Room.

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- IV. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – January 29, 2013
- V. ACTION ITEMS
 - a. Election of Officer
 - i. Secretary
 - b. Approval of 2013-2016 State Plan Amendment
- VI. MISCELLANEOUS
- VII. NEXT MEETING
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 3 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Thomas J. Camacho
Chairman

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-13-017

Supply and Delivery of Materials and Tools for CUC Water Well Upgrade Project

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of materials and tools for CUC water well upgrade project in Obyan and Koblerville, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Supply and delivery of materials and tools for CUC water wells upgrade project, Obyan and Koblerville, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 23, 2013**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Form. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 8, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Riegel, Water/Wastewater, Chief Engineer via email john.riegel@cucgov.org and Robert Malate, Water/Wastewater, Engineer via email robert.malate@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Nation

Senate vote: OK \$85 billion cuts, avert shutdown

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate approved legislation Wednesday to lock in \$85 billion in widely decried spending cuts aimed at restraining soaring federal deficits—and to avoid a government shutdown just a week away. President Barack Obama's fellow Democrats rejected a call to reopen White House tours scrapped because of the tightened spending.

Federal meat inspectors were spared furloughs, but more than 100 small and medium air traffic facilities were left exposed to possible closure as the two parties alternately clashed and cooperated over proposals to take the edge off across-the-board spending cuts that took effect on March 1.

Final House approval of the measure is likely as early as Thursday. Obama's signature is a certainty, meaning the cuts will remain in place at least through the end of the budget year on Sept. 30—even though he and lawmakers in both parties have criticized them as random rather than targeted. Obama argued

strongly against them in campaign-style appearances, predicting painful consequences, before they began taking effect, and Republicans objected to impacts on Pentagon spending.

Without changes, the \$85 billion in cuts for the current year will swell to nearly \$1 trillion over a decade, enough to make at least a small dent in economy-threatening federal deficits but requiring program cuts that lawmakers in both parties say are unsustainable politically. As a result, negotiations are possible later in the year to replace the reductions with different savings.

The administration as well as Republicans picked and chose its spots in arguing for flexibility in this year's cuts.

"My hope is that gets done," Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said earlier in the week of the effort to prevent layoffs among inspectors that could disrupt the nation's food supply chain. "If it does not, come mid-July we will furlough meat inspectors," he added, departing

from the administration's general position that flexibility should ease all the cuts or none at all.

Nor did the White House resist a bipartisan plan to prevent any cut in tuition assistance programs for members of military.

The final vote was 73-26, with 51 Democrats, 20 Republicans and two independents in favor and 25 Republicans and Democratic Sen. Jon Tester of Montana opposed.

Political considerations were on ample display in both houses as lawmakers labored over measures relating to spending priorities, both for this year and a decade into the future.

Rep. Mark Mulvaney, R-S.C., said he had wanted the House to vote on Obama's own budget, but he noted the president hadn't yet released one. "It's with great regret ... that I'm not able to offer" a presidential budget for a vote, he said. He added he had wanted to vote on a placeholder—"34 pages full of question marks"—but House rules prevented it.

Minority Democrats advanced a plan that calls for \$1 trillion in higher taxes, \$500 billion in spending cuts over a decade and a \$200 billion economic stimulus package. Republicans voted it down, 253-165.

ACROSS THE NATION

Colorado governor signs landmark gun bills

DENVER (AP)—Colorado's governor signed bills Wednesday that place new restrictions on firearms, signaling a change for Democrats who have traditionally shied away from gun control in a state with a pioneer tradition of gun ownership and self-reliance. The legislation thrust Colorado into the national spotlight as a potential test of how far the country might be willing to go with new gun restrictions after the horror of mass killings at an Aurora movie theater and a Connecticut elementary school.

Ex-officials convicted in Calif. corruption case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Five former city councilors in a small, blue-collar Los Angeles suburb that became a symbol of political greed were convicted Wednesday of stealing taxpayer money by creating a panel that helped boost their part-time pay to nearly \$100,000 a year. One former councilman was acquitted and the other five were found not guilty of several counts each, as jurors returned verdicts on only about half of the more than 80 charges prosecutors had filed. Jurors said they were deadlocked on the other charges, but the judge ordered them to continue deliberations after some members said they thought a verdict could still be reached.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-DEQ-098 (TINIAN)**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 16, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR THE DIVISION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY – TINIAN BRANCH"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) – (D)

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAUULIMAN
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY**

P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.No. (670) 234-6245 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
email: administration@cda.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) WISHES TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT SERVICES AT ITS CURRENT LOCATION IN MIDDLE ROAD GUALO RAI IS LIMITED TO RECEIVING PAYMENTS ONLY AS IT PREPARES TO RELOCATE TO ITS NEW LOCATION IN SAN JOSE.

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED NEXT WEEK WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, MARCH 27 AND 28 AND WILL REOPEN FOR BUSINESS AT ITS NEW LOCATION ON MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2013.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING.

MANAGEMENT

Asia

Flood of dead pigs, trickle of answers in China

BEIJING (AP)—The pig carcasses—about 14,000 of them—have been floating down rivers that feed into Shanghai for nearly two weeks. The city’s residents have been told not to worry, and not much else.

Where the pigs came from, how they died and why they suddenly showed up in the river system that supplies drinking water to a city of 23 million has not been explained. Officials have told residents their drinking water is safe, while authorities have censored microblog posts suggesting that the public organize peaceful protests.

The official response reminds many of the government silence that surrounded previous health concerns, from the SARS epidemic to bird flu to contaminated milk.

“They are only giving the runaround,” said Huang Beibei, a Shanghai microblogger whose revolting photographs of the pigs first prompted local media coverage and government attention. “Who believes what they are saying?”

“Those pigs must have come from somewhere,” author Li Mingsheng said. “That’s a basic question, but the government

still has not told us that.”

Authorities have retrieved at least 13,996 dead pigs as of Wednesday, and have released daily bulletins saying drinking water in Shanghai remains within national standards.

Except for pig tallies by Shanghai authorities and one late-night news conference by a local official in nearby Zhejiang province, where the pigs are suspected to originate, no top official and no head of any government agency dealing with the environment, health or agriculture has made any public comment.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Malaysia charges 8 Filipinos with terror crimes

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysian prosecutors charged eight Filipino men with terrorism-related offenses Wednesday following an armed siege in Borneo that killed 71 people. The eight are the first to face charges after an estimated 200 members of a Filipino Muslim clan slipped into Malaysia’s Sabah state last month and took over a village to highlight their long-dormant territorial claim to the timber-rich state. Subsequent firefights killed 62 clansmen and nine Malaysian police and army personnel, according to Malaysia’s government. Some of the surviving Filipinos are believed to have fled back to the neighboring southern Philippines, while a few dozen are allegedly hiding on palm

oil plantation land in Sabah.

Rat may have caused this week’s Fukushima outage

TOKYO (AP)—This week’s power outage at Japan’s tsunami-crippled nuclear plant may have been caused by a rat. Masayuki Ono, spokesman for Tokyo Electric Power Co., the utility that runs the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant, says a 15-centimeter (6-inch) rat was found dead Wednesday near a switchboard. He says the rat may be linked to the power failure, but that more investigation is needed to be sure. Cooling systems at the plant for four storage pools for nuclear fuel were knocked out Monday. Power was restored early Wednesday at all nine affected facilities.

World

Obama, Netanyahu show solidarity on Iran

JERUSALEM (AP)—Seeking a fresh start to a strained relationship, President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday demonstrated solidarity on the key issues that have stirred tensions between them. The U.S. president vowed he would do “what is necessary” to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, while Netanyahu reaffirmed that his newly formed government seeks a two-state solution to Israel’s decades-long dispute with the Palestinians.

Obama, in Israel for the first time in his presidency, also pledged to investigate reports that Syria had used chemical weapons for the first time in its two-year civil war. And he sternly warned Syrian leader Bashar Assad that use of such weapons would be a “game-changer,” one that could potentially draw the U.S. military into the conflict for the first time.

“The Assad regime must understand that they will be held accountable for the use of chemical weapons or their transfer to terrorists,” Obama

said, standing alongside Netanyahu at a nighttime news conference.

Expectations were low for a breakthrough during Obama’s visit on any of the major issues roiling the region. Instead, the president was focused on reassuring anxious Israelis that he is committed to their security, and on resetting his rocky relationship with Netanyahu. The two leaders have been at odds over Israeli settlements and Iran’s disputed nuclear programs, and Netanyahu famously lectured Obama in front of the media in the Oval

Syria regime, rebels want probe of chemical attack

BEIRUT (AP)—Syria’s government and rebels on Wednesday both demanded an international investigation into an alleged chemical weapons attack, as the country’s feared arsenal became the latest propaganda tool in the 2-year-old civil war.

President Barack Obama said the United States is investigating whether chemical weapons have been deployed in Syria, but noted that he is “deeply skeptical” of claims by President Bashar Assad’s regime that rebel forces were behind such an attack.

“Once we establish the facts, I have made clear that the use of chemical weapons is a game changer,” Obama said in a news conference with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem.

The use of chemical weapons by either side is a nightmare scenario. Along with its warnings about Assad, the

West is just as concerned that rebel forces, including some linked to al-Qaida, could get their hands on Syria’s chemical weapons supplies.


Despite the importance, any clear confirmation of the nature of the attack that took place Tuesday in the northern village of Khan al-Assal, killing at least 31 people, is unlikely. Syria’s government seals off areas it controls to journalists and outside observers.

5th Year Death Anniversary

In Loving Memory of

†Julian Attao Concepcion

“Jude”



My children and I, together with our families wish to inform our relatives and friends that we will be commemorating the Fifth Anniversary of our beloved’s passing unto eternal life.

Masses of Intention will be celebrated at Kristo Rai Church commencing on Saturday, March 23, 2013 at 06:00 a.m. and will end on Monday, April 01, 2013. From Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Black Saturday, there will be no 6:00 a.m. mass but we would like to encourage attending and participating throughout the Holy Week Services. On Easter Sunday, mass will be at 08:00 a.m. and 09:30 a.m. at Kristo Rai Church.

On Easter Monday, April 01, 2013, Mass of Intention for our Beloved †Julian will be celebrated at 06:00 a.m. at Kristo Rai Church. Breakfast will be served after the mass.

Please join us in prayers.


Vicky B. Concepcion, Children and Families
Cesario T. Concepcion and Families

In Celebration of his New Life

VINCENT PALACIOS DELEON GUERRERO

Lovingly known as “Ben Charing/Kumoi”

Born on November 12, 1976 and was called to Eternal Life on March 16, 2013



In his new life, he now joins his:

Grandparents: Joaquin Muna & Francisca Tudela Palacios, Jesus Diaz & Josepha Santos Deleon Guerrero

Mother: Rosario Tudela Palacios

Uncles & Aunts: Esteban I. Pangelinan, Augustin T. Palacios, Herman T. Palacios, Vicente S. & Dolores T. Deleon Guerrero, Francisco S. & Elizabeth C. Deleon Guerrero, Maria Muña Palacios

Niece: Denise Zayleen Palacios Tenorio

Nephew: Josef Joachin Palacios Deleon Guerrero

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Father: Ramon Santos Deleon Guerrero (Kumoi) & Romana A. Villagomez

Loving Friend: Juanet A. Camacho

Siblings: Zeniva T. Palacios, David & Karen Palacios, Tina Marie P. & Erwin Flores, Jessica Palacios & children, Josie DLG. & John Siguenza, Glenn D. & Vanessa Diaz, Renee Rose D. & Gus Cruz, Raymond K. DLGuerrero, Pasqual K. & Joannie DLGuerrero, Joseph K. DLGuerrero, Simon V. & Marylou Deleon Guerrero, Jeremiah & Brittney DLGuerrero, Frankie V. DLGuerrero

Aunts & Uncles: Connie P. Pangelinan, John & Susan Schwarz, Esperanza U. Palacios, Joyce Palacios, Daniel T. Palacios, Isabel DLG. & Jesus Campos, Angie DLG. & Flor Balecha, Cathy DLG. & Jesus Quinata

Godchildren: Sky Gusteen L. Palacios, Joey Dean (JD) P. Aldan, Rocco Iskawa

He is additionally survived by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles and close friends

Mass for the repose of his soul is being offered daily at 6:00 p.m., followed by the Holy Rosary at San Antonio Church.

Funeral Service will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2013. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. at San Antonio Church followed by Interment Service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery

Thank You, Si Yu’s Ma’ase for your presence, thoughts, and prayers

The Family

Off The Wall

Speeding Iowa dad ignores police with baby coming

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP)—An Iowa man who was pulled over for speeding as he rushed his pregnant wife to the hospital said he was determined to keep going despite the police lights flashing behind him.

Tyler Rathjen planned to keep going as his wife, Ashley, began giving birth to their son in the passenger seat. But a red light with heavy traffic finally forced him to stop.

"I should not stop, I'm not going to, I'm going to get to the hospital," Tyler Rathjen recalled thinking in an interview with Cedar Rapids TV

station KCRG.

The baby's head and arms were already out by the time Iowa City Officer Kevin Wolfe reached the passenger door.

"We were all having a different experience," Wolfe said.

Ashley Rathjen gave birth to her third son, Owen, just blocks from Mercy Iowa City hospital on March 10.

"I kept saying: there's no break (in contractions) there's no break," she said. "He was coming at that time."

Wolfe helped with the final steps of delivery and then escorted the Williamsburg

family to the hospital. His dashboard camera captured the episode.

Owen is now home with his parents and two brothers.

Ashley Rathjen said her new-

born son will probably retell the story for years to come.

"I'm sure it will be a life story

to tell everybody (about) how he made his grand entrance," she said.

Cops: Pa. guard shot his own finger while trying to remove wedding ring

PITTSBURGH (AP)—A federal prison guard has been charged with shooting his own finger in a drunken attempt to remove his wedding ring during an argument with his wife at their northwestern Pennsylvania home, police said.

A criminal complaint said Bradford police were called just before 9 p.m. March 2 and were met by Alfredo Malespini

III, 31, who told officers he was "trying to get rid of his wedding ring" and decided to "shoot it off." The Bradford Era first reported the shooting on Friday.

The gunshot badly mangled Malespini's finger, but didn't remove the ring, police said. At the time of the shooting in Bradford, which is near the New York border about 130 miles northeast of Pittsburgh,

Malespini was employed as a lieutenant at the Federal Correctional Institution-McKean, a medium security prison a few miles away.

Vicky Moser, the executive assistant at the prison, said she could confirm only that Malespini remains employed as a lieutenant at the prison, but could not comment as to whether he's been suspended or has otherwise taken leave.

Bradford police Lt. Steve Caskey told The Associated Press that he wasn't sure of Malespini's employment status, but "as far as we know, he is still seeking treatment in Erie."

Malespini was taken to UPMC Hamot hospital where he was treated for the gunshot wound and also for mental or emotional issues, Caskey said.

Police have been called to the Malespini residence a "couple times" previously for domestic disputes, but Caskey said he doesn't believe Malespini had ever been charged with a crime before.

On the day of the shooting, Malespini "had been drinking quite heavily throughout the day and he and his wife had been arguing throughout the day about an affair he had had several months ago," Caskey said.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Book returned to Estonian library 69 years late

TALLINN, Estonia (AP)—An Estonian man has returned a library book 69 years late, partly blaming a World War II aerial bombing that damaged the library for the late return. Ivika Turkson of the Tallinn Central Library says that last week the man in his mid-80s returned the overdue book—which was checked out on March 7, 1944, while Estonia was occupied by Nazi Germany—along with an apology and an offer to pay a late fee. Turkson said Tuesday that the library waived any penalty for the late return of the tome, which still contained the original emblem and serial number, allowing librarians to identify it. It was not immediately clear why the man waited so long to return the book, a work of fiction by Estonian author Eduard Vilde.

Police: Couple brings kids along for UT bank heist

TOOELE, Utah (AP)—Police in Utah say they've arrested a husband and wife bank robbery team that took their two children along for the illegal excursion. An arrest report from Tooele police says the man and woman, both 27, were caught Monday soon after a Wells Fargo branch was robbed. A 5-year-old and a 2-year-old were in the back seat. According to The Salt Lake Tribune, the couple told police they robbed the bank because they faced eviction and growing medical bills. Employees told police the woman entered the bank and showed the teller a note demanding money. The woman reportedly ran from the bank to the car, which was driven by the man. Police say they searched the vehicle and found the demand note, along with hundreds of dollars in cash.

4 arrested for Calif. motorcycle freeway stunt

WEST COVINA, Calif. (AP)—Four men—including the would-be groom—have been arrested for a marriage proposal stunt in which hundreds of motorcycles blocked a Southern California freeway, authorities said. The prospective groom and three of his friends were all booked for investigation of misdemeanor public nuisance and participating in an unlawful assembly. The 24-year-old groom, Hector Martinez of Covina, also was booked for investigation of exhibition of speed, authorities said Tuesday. As many as 250 motorcycles stopped on the eastbound Interstate 10 in West Covina on Jan. 27 so that Martinez could propose to his girlfriend. At one point, a bike sent up a cloud of pink smoke. The stunt, which lasted about two minutes, was captured on video and went viral on the Internet.

Ohio woman, 106, finally gets high school diploma

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—A 106-year-old central Ohio woman who completed classes but didn't graduate in a dispute over a book has received her high school diploma. The News Journal in Mansfield reports the Mount Vernon superintendent presented Reba Williams with the diploma Wednesday at her apartment in Columbus. She even got to wear a traditional graduation cap brought by the retired Mount Vernon English teacher who urged the school board to award the diploma. Williams has said she completed high school in Mount Vernon but was denied her diploma because she refused to read a final book assigned by a teacher. She'd read the book once and didn't want to read it again. Williams says she hopes current students realize that learning is important and that they probably shouldn't follow her example.

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

*Naomi Therese
DeLeon Guerrero
Benjamin*

Lovingly known as "Omi"

Born to This Life on November 10, 1991

Called to Eternal Life on March 16, 2013

In her new life, she now joins her

Maternal Grandmother: *Maria Crispina Ada DeLeon Guerrero*

Paternal Grandparents: *Carmina Weilbacher &
Ichiro Edwin Benjamin*

Auntie & Uncles: *Rita W. Benjamin, Kennedy W.
Benjamin, Derence 'Jeff' W. Jack,
and Judah Rekemesik*

Cousin: *Walter David DeLeon Guerrero*

Nephew: *Josef Joachin Palacios DeLeon Guerrero*

God sister: *Elena Martina Rokop Hofschneider*

She will be greatly missed by her

Parents: *Nicholas Weilbacher & Elaine Christina
DeLeon Guerrero Benjamin*

Siblings: *James Kennedy & Maria 'Kiki'
Elizabeth (Maria Maelaine, Angelo
Nicolas, Marlaine Kenzie, and
Derence James Victorio)
Nicole Alessandra & John Peter (Ava Carmina)
Richard Abraham*

Nadia Rae & Benwachi (Elena Therese)

Loving Friend: *Joseph Raymond Muna Berki*

Son at heart: *Javen Jasper Salas Montenegro*

Godparents: *Rosiky & Winnie Camacho and Freddy Jr. & Rinenta Hofschneider*

Naomi's outgoing personality and fun-loving spirit will also be missed and forever cherished by her many godchildren, aunts and uncles, cousins, nephews and nieces, friends and co-workers.

Mass for the repose of her soul is being offered daily at 6 a.m. at Mount Carmel Cathedral. Prayer of the Holy Rosary is being said nightly at 7 p.m. also at Mount Carmel Cathedral.

On Saturday, March 23rd, Naomi's remains will be escorted from the Borja Funeral Home to Mount Carmel Cathedral at 8:30 a.m. for funeral service and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 2 p.m., followed by interment services at Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Thank you all, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, and Kalangan for your presence, thoughts, and prayers.

Science & Technology

South Korea: Chinese address source of attack

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A Chinese Internet address was the source of a cyberattack on one company hit in a massive network shutdown that affected 32,000 computers at six banks and media companies in South Korea, initial findings indicated Thursday.

It's too early to assign blame—Internet addresses can easily be manipulated and the investigation could take weeks—but suspicion for Wednesday's shutdown

quickly fell on North Korea, which has threatened Seoul and Washington with attack in recent days because of anger over U.N. sanctions imposed for its Feb. 12 nuclear test.

South Korean regulators said they believe the attacks came from a "single organization," but they've still not finished investigating what happened at the other companies.

Experts say hackers often attack via computers in other countries to hide their identities.

South Korea has previously accused North Korean hackers of using Chinese addresses to infect their networks.

Seoul believes North Korea runs an Internet warfare unit aimed at hacking U.S. and South Korean government and military networks to gather information and disrupt service.

The attack Wednesday caused computer networks at major banks and top TV broadcasters to crash simultaneously. It paralyzed bank machines across the

country and raised fears that this heavily Internet-dependent society was vulnerable. On Thursday, only one of the attacked banks, Shinhan, was fully online, officials said.

A Chinese address created the malicious code in the server of Nonghyup bank, according to an initial analysis by the state-run Korea Communications Commission, South Korea's telecom regulator.



AP
An employee works near a computer screen with error message at the newsroom of the all-news cable channel YTN as the broadcaster's computer network was paralyzed in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, March 20, 2013.

HP develops glasses-free 3-D for mobile devices

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Researchers at Hewlett-Packard Co. have developed a way to put glasses-free 3-D video on mobile devices with a viewing angle so wide that viewers can see an object more fully just by tilting the screen.

Glasses-free 3-D is not unique. Nintendo Co. Ltd.'s 3DS handheld allows video game play in 3-D without glasses, but it requires players to look straight into the screen with their noses centered.

HP's researchers have found a way to make images viewable in 3-D from angles up to 45 degrees from center in any direction—up, down, side-to-

side or diagonally. That means viewers can see a person's face with one ear blocked from view, but reveal the ear by swiveling the screen.

The company's findings will be published in the scientific journal, *Nature*, on Thursday.

The scientists used nanotechnology to etch multiple circles with tiny grooves into a glass layer of the display.

The grooves bend light in a way that allows for 64 different points of view. By moving the screen, people will perceive two of those points of view at any one time, one with their left eye and one with their right. As a result, the im-

age will appear in 3-D.

David Fattal, the lead author of the paper, said the effect is "much like you'd see in the movie 'Star Wars' with the hologram of Princess Leia."

He acknowledged the effect wouldn't be identical to a hologram, however, since the images won't pop as far out of the screen as Leia's projection did in the movie.

The technology isn't exactly coming to a movie theater near you any time soon. While moving images can be created using computer animation, any live video capture would require an array of 64 cameras all pointed at an object, Fattal said.

Setting the white balance on a digital SLR camera

By **DON LINDICH**
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q. I have been photographing my daughter's gymnastics tournaments with my new digital SLR. The tournaments are held indoors under artificial light.

All of my pictures have a slight color cast from the artificial light. I have tried different white balance settings, including automatic white balance, but none of them seem to give me proper color. How can I correct this?—D.N., Washington, Pa.

A. You are on the right track changing the white balance, but you need to be more precise

than the camera's white balance presets will allow.

Bring a sheet of plain white paper or white posterboard to the next tournament. When you are inside under the artificial light take a picture of the white card or paper, using the zoom to fill the frame 100 percent so the image is completely of the white surface. The image does not have to be in focus as you are just capturing the color.

Look in your camera's menus for manually-set white balance. There will be a setting where you use an image to set the white balance. Select the image of the white sheet and use it to set the white balance. You will see the color cast disappear

from the image and subsequent pictures will have the proper color balance. Don't forget to change the white balance setting back to the usual setting when you leave the event.

This technique works very well for photographing portraits in the shade as it will render proper skin tones, or anytime you want to be sure your colors are just right. I use it with my digital SLRs when I use large flash units in my studio, setting the white balance using the white background.

Contact Don Lindich at www.soundadviceblog.com and use the "submit question" link on that site.

YouTube now serving videos to 1 billion people

LOS ANGELES (AP)—YouTube says more than 1 billion people are now visiting its online video site each month to watch everything from zany clips of cute kittens to sobering scenes of social unrest around the world.

The milestone was announced Wednesday at a splashy event in Santa Monica that was aimed at advertisers and featured performances from some of the website's biggest stars, such as the bands CDZA and Monsters Calling Home. It marks another step in YouTube's evolution from a quirky startup launched in 2005 to one of the most influential forces in today's media landscape.

YouTube crossed the 1 billion threshold five months after Facebook Inc. said its online social network had reached that figure for the first time. YouTube first hit 800 million monthly visitors in October 2011.

The vast audience has given YouTube's owner, Google Inc., another lucrative channel for selling online ads beyond its dominant Internet search engine.

Google bought YouTube for \$1.76 billion in 2006 when the video site had an estimated 50 million users worldwide.

Since late 2011, YouTube has refocused its site to prioritize watching along distinct channels of its creators. Such channels were seen as better allowing advertisers to focus on certain genres of content like beauty or music.

In 2012, it seeded 96 channels with around \$100 million in funding to help them accelerate that growth, often partnering with big-name Hollywood producers and directors that had made it big in movies or TV but not on the Internet, including "CSI" creator Anthony Zuiker. Later, YouTube vowed to spend another \$200 million marketing the channels to boost viewers.

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The Croods 3D			
Friday		7:15	
Saturday	1:15	7:15	
Sunday	1:15	7:15	
Monday & Tuesday	1:15	7:15	
Cast: Emma Stone, Nicolas Cage, Ryan Reynolds Genre: Children's/Family • Rated PG			

The Croods 2D			
Friday	4:15	9:30	
Saturday	4:15	9:30	
Sunday	4:15	9:30	
Monday & Tuesday	4:15		
Cast: Emma Stone, Nicolas Cage, Ryan Reynolds Genre: Children's/Family • Rated PG			

Olympus Has Fallen			
Friday	4:30	7:30	9:55
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Monday & Tuesday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Cast: Gerard Butler, Morgan Freeman, Aaron Eckhart Genre: Action • Rated R			

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The Incredible Burt Wonderstone			
Friday	4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Monday & Tuesday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Cast: Steve Carell, Olivia Wilde, Steve Buscemi Genre: Comedy • Rated PG 13			

Oz The Great and Powerful 3D			
Friday		7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	7:00	
Monday & Tuesday	1:00	7:00	
Cast: James Franco, Rachel Weisz, Michelle Williams Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG			

Oz The Great and Powerful 2D			
Friday	4:00		
Saturday	4:00		
Sunday	4:00		
Monday & Tuesday	4:00		
Cast: James Franco, Rachel Weisz, Michelle Williams Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG			

Jack The Giant Slayer 3D			
Friday		7:20	
Saturday	1:20	7:20	
Sunday	1:20	7:20	
Monday & Tuesday	1:20	7:20	
Cast: Nicholas Hoult, John Kassir, Ewan McGregor Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13			

Jack The Giant Slayer 2D			
Friday	4:20	9:50	
Saturday	4:20	9:50	
Sunday	4:20		
Monday & Tuesday	4:20		
Cast: Nicholas Hoult, John Kassir, Ewan McGregor Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13			

21 and Over			
Friday	4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Monday & Tuesday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Cast: Justin Chon, Miles Teller, Jonathan Keltz Genre: Comedy • Rated R			

Snitch			
Friday	4:10	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Monday & Tuesday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Cast: Dwane Johnson, Benjamin Bratt, Barry Pepper Genre: Action • Rated PG 13			

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Life & Style

Fallon reportedly replacing Leno, moving to NY

LOS ANGELES (AP)—As Jay Leno lobs potshots at ratings-challenged NBC in his “Tonight” monologues, speculation is swirling the network is taking steps to replace the host with Jimmy Fallon next year and move the show from Burbank to New York. NBC confirmed Wednesday it’s creating a new studio for Fallon in New York, where he hosts “Late Night.” But the network did not comment on a report that the digs at its Rockefeller Plaza headquarters may become home to a transplanted, Fallon-hosted “Tonight.”

The New York Times reported the plan in a Wednesday story, citing unidentified network executives. The Hollywood Reporter had a March 1 report about a Fallon-Leno switch, which was denied by the network.

Looming over NBC is its messy, failed effort to replace Leno with Conan O’Brien, which ended in 2010 with Leno regaining “Tonight” and NBC losing O’Brien—who got a \$45 million exit deal—to TBS. Leno’s current “Tonight” contract expires in September 2014. That occurred under a different regime, before NBCUniversal was taken over by Philadelphia-based Comcast Corp., which has a reputation for discipline. While NBC dithered and backtracked on its “Tonight” succession plan involving O’Brien, Comcast is likely to be more decisive.

“I don’t know if it’s possible



This Jan. 13, 2013 file photo shows Jay Leno, host of “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno,” left, and Jimmy Fallon, host of “Late Night with Jimmy Fallon” backstage at the 70th Annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif.

to have a less orderly transition than Leno-O’Brien,” said analyst Brad Adgate of media-buying firm Horizon Media.

Fallon contacted Leno in an effort to help smooth the potential switch, according to a Hollywood Reporter story Wednesday.

The latest roiling of the late-night waters began in January when ABC moved “Jimmy Kimmel Live” back to 11:35 p.m. Eastern to offer direct competition to Leno and CBS’ David Letterman.

With the potential for Kimmel, 45, to draw advertiser-favored young viewers away

from Leno (62) and Letterman (65), it’s unsurprising that their networks might step up their succession planning.

At 38, Fallon is the youngest of the pack.

Leno, who took over “Tonight” from Johnny Carson in 1992, did not respond Wednesday to a request for comment. But he might be taking advantage of other ways to communicate—the “Tonight” stage and its audience of millions.

Although late-night hosts are known for needling their network bosses on-air, the timing of Leno’s latest jabs at NBC seemed to make the network

particularly uncomfortable. They reportedly asked him to stop; he hasn’t.

“You know the whole legend of St. Patrick, right? St. Patrick drove all the snakes out of Ireland—and then they came to the United States and became NBC executives,” Leno joked on Monday’s show.

On Tuesday, he played off a news report about a Serbian woman with a rare brain condition that causes her to see the world upside down: “Isn’t that crazy? It’s unbelievable. She sees everything upside down. In fact, she thinks NBC is at the top of the ratings.”

Bobby Brown turns himself in for DUI conviction

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bobby Brown has surrendered to authorities and will begin a 55-day jail sentence for a driving under the influence conviction.

Brown’s attorney and a spokesman for the city at-

torney’s office say the R&B singer turned himself in at a Los Angeles courthouse Wednesday.

Brown pleaded no contest to DUI and driving on a suspended license in February. He will

also be required to serve four years on informal probation and complete an 18-month alcohol treatment program after he is released.

The conviction is Brown’s second for DUI in less than a

year. He avoided jail after pleading no contest to a March 2012 drunk driving case.

The 44-year-old New Edition singer is the ex-husband of deceased singer Whitney Houston.

Giada de Laurentiis to serve up children’s series

NEW YORK (AP)—Celebrity chef Giada de Laurentiis is serving up a few stories for kids.

She has signed with Grosset & Dunlap, an imprint of Penguin Group (USA), for a children’s book series called “Recipe for Adventure.” The publisher announced Thursday that the first book comes out Sept. 3. Designed for ages 7 to 10, the series will feature siblings Alfie and Emilia as they travel to great food cities around the world.

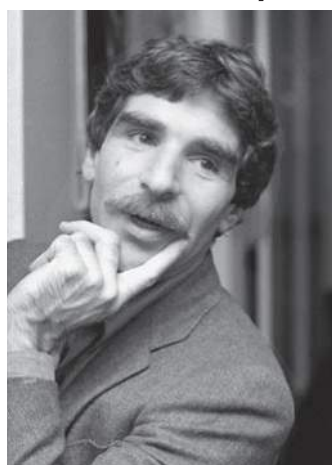
De Laurentiis, 42, hosts “Giada at Home” on the Food Network and appears frequently on NBC’s “Today” show. Her previous books include the best-sellers “Giada at Home” and “Weeknights With Giada.”

1970s. He aspired to become a serious actor but was thrown in front of the camera while working on the production crew for “Deep Throat.”

At the 2005 premiere of a documentary about “Deep Throat” at the Sundance Film Festival, Reems told The Associated Press that the film was the first to “drop any pretense that it had educational value.”

“There was no socially redeeming value, and so the word of mouth went out from people who saw it saying ‘This is just a comedy. It’s great. You’ve got to see this,’” Reems said.

When the original male lead didn’t work out, Reems, the lighting director, stepped in. He played a doctor helping a patient, played by Linda Lovelace, with a sexually sensitive area at the back of her throat. Lovelace died in 2002.



In this Nov. 21, 1979 file photo, Harry Reems discusses his acting career in New York.

gate scandal that led to President Richard Nixon’s resignation.

Reems was born in New York in 1947 as Herbert Streicher. He served in the U.S. Marines before he ended up in the entertainment industry in the

Elderly mom dishes out abuse to daughters trying to help

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: My 87-year-old mother is narcissistic, self-absorbed and extremely cruel. Her physician has consulted with my sister and me and verified these challenging traits. When she says something or acts out, she’ll say, “I am who I am, so don’t expect me to change.”

How can my sister and I deal with the needs of an elderly parent who continues to verbally and emotionally mistreat us and others? My sister is beginning to react in a defensive, angry manner (rightfully so), and all I do is cry and feel guilty for wanting to get away from her.

REACHED WIT’S END IN LOMA LINDA, CALIF.

Dear Abby

DEAR REACHED WIT’S END: Because your mother is behaving the way she always has, her unpleasantness can’t be blamed on old age. The next time she acts out and tells you, “I am who I am, so don’t expect me to change,” respond by saying: “That’s right. You are who you are, but I don’t have to subject myself to this. If it happens again, I’m out of here.” Then follow through.

If that doesn’t discourage her unpleasant behavior, consider hiring a social worker or licensed caregiver to see her needs are attended to. That’s not abandonment; it’s self-defense.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I recently came out to my family as transgender (male to female). However, they still call me “gay.” I have told them repeatedly that “transgender” and “gay” are not the same, but they won’t listen. They accept and love me “as I am,” and I’m grateful for that. But I need them to accept me—the REAL me—as I am in my heart.

I am biologically male and there are people in my life who don’t care about that; they care about me as a human being and want to spend their lives with me. It hurts when my parents keep calling me “gay” and their “son.” Please help me, Abby. My heart is hurting.

GIRL NEEDING ADVICE

DEAR GIRL: Believe it or not, your parents may need as much or more help than you do. Although you have told them you are transgender, they do not appear to fully grasp that gender identity and sexual orientation are two different things.

A terrific educational resource for them would be PFLAG. It’s an organization made up of parents, families, friends and straight allies united with gay, bisexual and transgender people. Part of their mission is education, and there are chapters in all 50 states. Contact them at www.pflag.org. Their literature will help your parents understand.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a man in my 40s. My girlfriend and I have known each other for four years, but have grown much closer over the past few months. She’s divorced with no kids.

I have asked her to stop going to a gym that she regularly visits. In the past, she had sex with a guy from there. He no longer goes there, but she craves that environment. She says she goes to keep in shape. I say she made a name for herself there, and requested she go to another gym. What do you think?

JEFF IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR JEFF: “Made a name for herself”? That’s an antiquated phrase I haven’t heard in a while. Because you asked, I will offer a few thoughts:

The individual this lady had the fling with is long gone. I doubt at this point whether anyone at that gym cares or remembers. If the “atmosphere” has you worried, go with her, and I’m sure you will quickly realize that the members go there to tone up rather than hook up.

A word of advice: The harder you try to control your girlfriend the further you’ll drive her away, so stop acting like a dumbbell.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in “What Every Teen Should Know.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

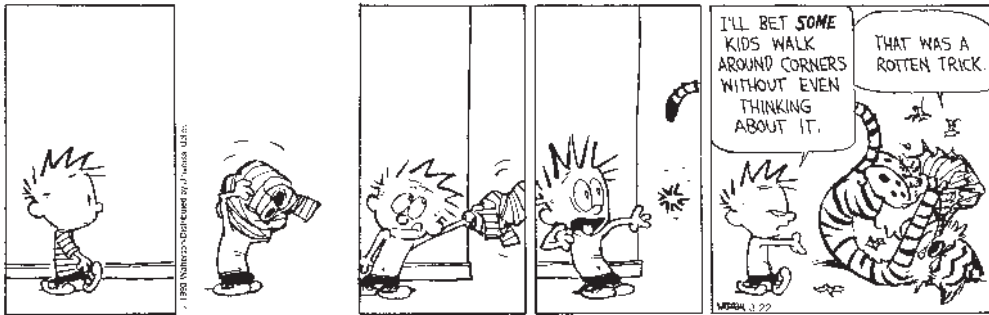
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

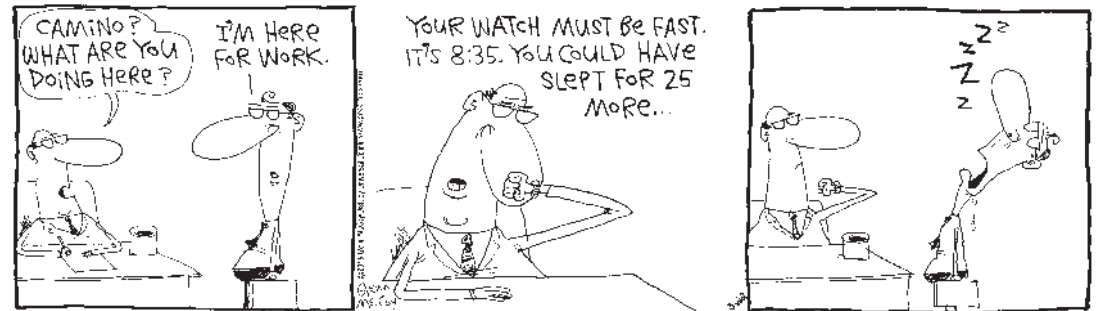
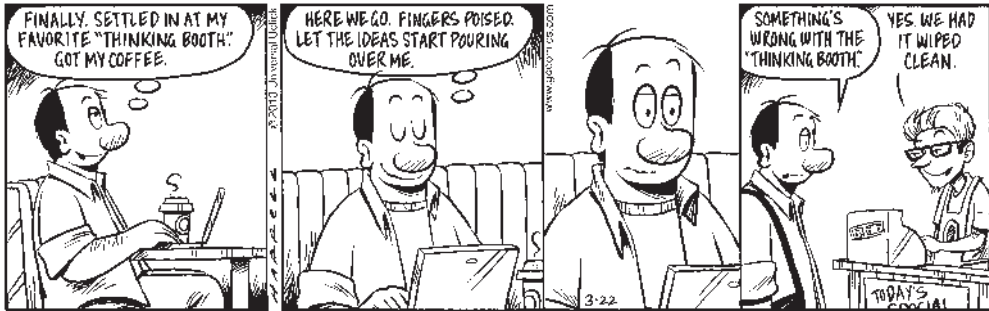


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

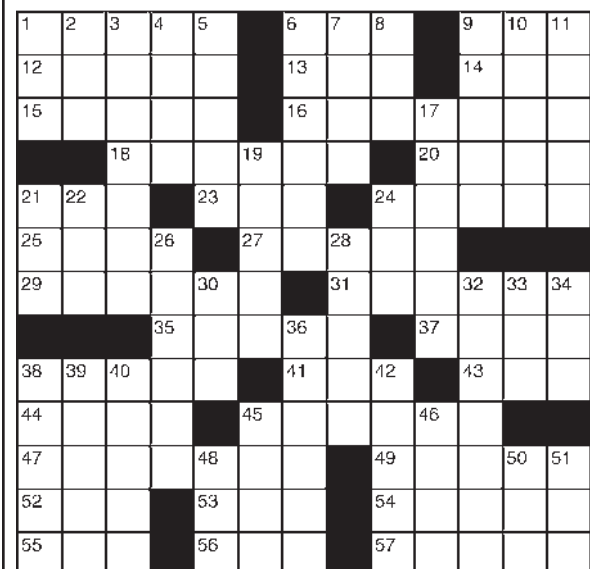
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Snapshot
6 America's uncle
9 Go back
12 Dawn
13 Pirouette
14 "7 Faces of Dr. —"
15 Foolish
16 Current
18 Use
20 Stirred
21 Service charge
23 Exist
24 Nervous
25 Screws up
27 Point of view
29 Horse-radish cousin
31 Medal earners
35 Mottled mount
37 Break suddenly
38 Went on all fours
41 Kreskin's claim
43 Have a go at
- DOWN**
- 1 Tire pressure stat
2 Barbarian
3 Asian wild asses
4 With period
46-Down, cheese-topped sandwich
5 Phantom's bailiwick
6 "Hot"
7 Top-rated
8 "Family Guy" daughter
9 "Cats" inspirer
10 Money lenders
11 One over par
17 Deed holders
19 Wheat or rye
21 A handful
22 Geological
24 Brewery product
26 Demolitions specialist
28 Specter
30 Morsel
32 Eastern-most
33 Great Lake
34 Agent
36 Ribbed
38 Opted for
39 Indian royals
40 Vote in
42 They're calling Danny Boy
45 Blend together
46 See 4-Down
48 "— American Cousin"
50 Altar affirmative
51 Started

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 3-22



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: J.J. Watt, 24; Reese Witherspoon, 37; Elvis Stojko, 41; William Shatner, 82.

Happy Birthday: An aggressive approach will serve you well. You have what it takes to move upward and onward, regardless of what others say or do. Your ingenuity and ability to work your way into the lives of those who can help you get ahead will lead to new beginnings. Change is in the stars, and love and romance highlighted. Your numbers are 2, 8, 17, 26, 33, 39, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get out and do something new and exciting. Love and romance are in the stars, but if you sit at home, you won't be able to take advantage of such opportunities. Take time for personal pleasure. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't feel guilty because of the way you feel about someone. Discuss your thoughts and clear up any pressing matters that may stand in the way of your happiness. Share your insight with your personal or professional partners. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Call in favors, rely on someone else's expertise and take pride in being able to pull things together. Your ability to organize will bring you recognition that can help you expand your interests. A relationship will bring you good fortune. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Focus on what you can accomplish, not what others around you are doing. An unexpected change may surprise you, but you mustn't let it

derail your plans. Use your ingenuity and excellent memory to express your thoughts. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take aim at your target and head for the finish line. You'll have everyone's attention and the charm and charisma required to be successful. Travel, presentation and romance are all highlighted. A celebration will put you in the limelight. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take care of business and deal with partnerships that can influence your position or reputation. Don't feel you have to spend money to get someone's attention. Keep your emotional views a secret. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You have clout. Rely on your ability to relate to the underdog and you will get what you need in return to inch your way into a key position. A partnership will undergo alterations. Negotiate your terms and hold your ground. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Oversee the fine details of a job you are responsible for and you will meet someone who will be able to contribute to future projects. Call the shots and you will not be taken for granted. Let your intuition guide your financial decisions. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put more time and effort into your home, family and domestic situations. Making a move or updating your residence will enhance your relationship with the people you care about most. Honesty will be key when dealing with friends, family or your lover. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Tread carefully when dealing with people in your community who have the ability to ruin your plans or push you in a direction that may be compromising. Concentrate on what you can accomplish, not what's challenging you. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll discover a way to get ahead professionally. Making changes to the way you present what you have to offer will bring in new business. Working from home will allow you to get a head start. Love is highlighted. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put more effort into a job you feel can bring you higher returns. Invest more time in your talent, connections and what you have to present, and you will find a way to turn something you love into a moneymaker. ★★★★★

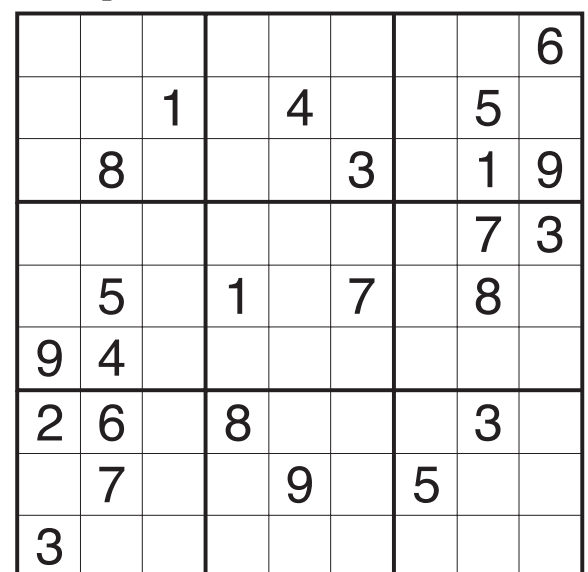
Birthday Baby: You are energetic, determined and progressive. You are original and bold.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

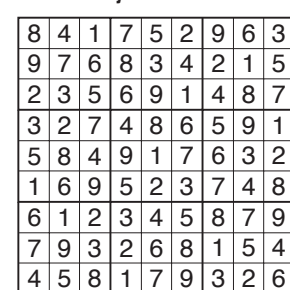


Difficulty Level ★★★★★

3/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

3/22

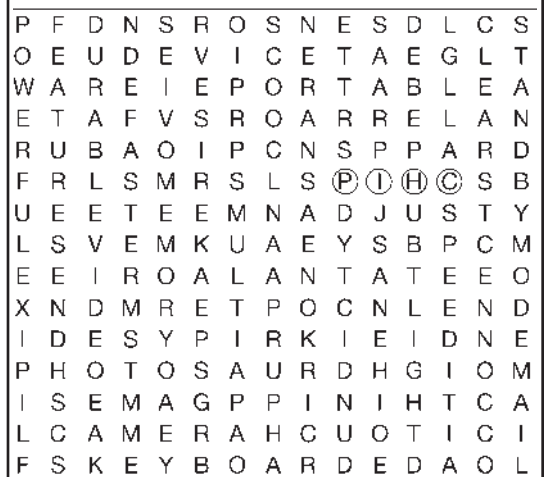
WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MACBOOK AIR

Solution: 8 letters

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3/22

Adjust, Apps, Backup, Call, Camera, Chip, Clear, Connect, Data, Device, Display, Durable, Easy, Edit, Email, Faster, Features, Flip, Games, Hide, Intensive, Keyboard, Learn, Light, Loaded, Memory, Mode, Movies, Multi, Performance, Photos, Pixel, Portable, Ports, Powerful, Print, Screen, Send, Sensor, Speaker, Speed, Standby, Storage, Terms, Thin, Touch, Video

Yesterday's Answer: Red Guides
To win THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD Volume 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

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ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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• **3 Bedroom with 2 Bathrooms**
Wooden flooring, 24hr Hot Water, Fully furnished, windy place.
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• **1 Bedroom - \$200.00**

Located in Chalan Kanoa next to the beach - Ocean view. Call 989-1027

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(1) Sales & Marketing Coordinator. Salary: \$7-\$8/hr. With 2-4 years of work experience. Send resume to SMJ Corporation, P.O. Box 503944 Saipan, MP 96950.

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Looking for used cars Year 2003 & up and Truck. Good condition. We pay cash!. Call 287-7676.

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Lower Navy Hill Apts. 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Unit approximately 600sq.ft. Nighttime security. \$450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$450-\$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
CLOSING DATE: MARCH 23, 2013

(1) Seamstress - \$5.55/hour
- WITH MINIMUM OF 5 YEARS EXPERIENCE
- WILLING TO WORK FLEXIBLE HOURS

PLEASE SEND RESUME TO
P.O. BOX 503531, SAIPAN, MP 96950

REQ.DAY & NIGHT CHILD CARE
Job Vacancy Announcement

(3) DAY CARE WORKER

- MUST BE COLLEGE GRADUATE
- CCDF CERTIFICATION REQUIRED
- WILLING TO WORK FLEXIBLE HOURS
- MUST BE RELIABLE
- MEDICAL BACKGROUND IS A PLUS
- FIVE (5) YEAR EXPERIENCE IN CHILDCARE

Please email resume to reqchildcare@yahoo.com

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THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff,	CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0077
-v-	
SAIKICHY S. ANGEY and LUISA K. ANGEY, Defendants.	SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 22, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 0051272, situated in Koblerville, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 935 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 005105, the original of which was registered with the Commonwealth Recorder as File No. 83-1364, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, April 5, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 11th day of March, 2013:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

CHEN YUE AYUYU dba CYA Koblerville Market

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: March 20, 2013
Closing Date: March 28, 2013

Position: (1) Store Manager
Salary: \$5.55 - \$6.00/hour
Job Qualifications: Must have 2 yrs experience in managing retail operations. Chinese language highly preferred. A valid drivers license required. Flexible Time is required. Honest and trustworthy.

Interested applicants must have their own reliable transportation. Applicants must submit their resume at **CYA Koblerville Market**, located near St. Jude Church in Koblerville.

NO PHONE CALLS.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

2-Sewing Machine Operator

High school diploma or general education degree; or one to 2 years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience.

Submit Applications to:
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A Chinese national with excellent command of English is seeking a full-time office job or opportunities as an -

English Chinese Translator

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- Hands-on PC skills

Call Wendy at 785-3228

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LSG has an opening for the following:

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- Cook
- Cook Helper
- Merchandise Delivery Driver

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

STEEL WORKER (08) \$5.60 - 6.50 PER HOUR
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as a steel worker with knowledge how to raise, place and unite iron or steel girders, R columns and structural members to form a completed structures or structural frameworks. May erect metal storage tanks and assemble prefabricated metal buildings. Position and secure steel bars or mesh in concrete forms in order to reinforce concrete. Use a variety of fasteners, rod-bending machines, blowtorches, and hand tools. Includes rod busters.

TRUCK DRIVER (10) -\$5.60 - 6.25 PER HOUR
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5-10 years experience as a truck driver with knowledge in Driving a factor-trailer combination or truck with a capacity of at least 26,000 GVW, to transport and deliver quarry materials, heavy equipment's or material in liquid, loose or packaged form.

PLUMBER (05) \$5.60 - 6.75 PER HOUR
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5-years experience as a plumber with knowledge to assemble, install alter and repair pipelines or pipe systems that carry water, steam, air or other liquids or gases. May install heating and cooling equipment and mechanical control systems. Includes sprinkler fitters assemble

CIVIL ENGINEERING TECHNICIANS (02) \$5.80 PER HOUR OR \$1,300.00 per month
Must be a college graduate with minimum of 5- years experience as a Civil Engineering Technician plumber with knowledge how to apply theory and principles of civil engineering in planning, designing and overseeing construction and maintenance of structures and facilities under the directions of engineering staff or physical scientists.

All positions close on March 29, 2013 . Interested applicants may apply at GPPC, INC. office located at As Perdido , Saipan. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills, testing maybe required. GPPC, INC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc.
 Job Vacancy Announcement

(02) REGISTERED NURSE

- Must pass NCLEX-RN and current CNMI RN License
- Attended a hemodialysis training program
- Must hold a degree in Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- One to five years hemodialysis experience or related field
- English Language skill-Proficient in verbal, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- Certified Nephrology Nurse (CNN)-Preferred
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system
- Must be flexible with time schedule

Interested applicants must submit application or resume to St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc., at Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit application will be on 03/29/13 at 4:00 pm. For more information, please call Judy Arriola at (670) 234-2903 ext. 124.

St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc.
 Job Vacancy Announcement

(01) Hemodialysis Technician

- Certificate from a Junior College/Technical School in health care.
- Attended a hemodialysis-training program.
- Three years hemodialysis experienced-Preferred.
- Must be CCHT certified by the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission.
- English Language skills-Proficient in spoken, written and comprehension.
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.
- In-Service train with Baxter Phoenix Machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater Bicarbonate distribution system.
- Flexible with time schedule.

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick up applications at **St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc.**, in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline for submission will be on March 22, 2013. For more information, please call Judy Arriola at (670) 234-2905 ext. 124.

Bears part ways with veteran Brian Urlacher



CHICAGO (AP)—Brian Urlacher wanted to re-sign with the Chicago Bears.

Instead, they're parting ways with the veteran linebacker after 13 years.

General manager Phil Emery said Wednesday that the team couldn't agree on a contract with Urlacher, for years the heart and face of the franchise. He is now a free agent after being slowed by a knee problem and then missing the last four games of the season with a hamstring injury.

"We were unable to reach an agreement with Brian and both sides have decided to move forward," Emery said in a statement. "Brian has been an elite player in our league for over a decade. He showed great leadership and helped develop a winning culture over his time with the Bears. We appreciate all he has given our team, on and off the field. Brian will always be welcome as a member of the Bears."

The 34-year-old Urlacher, an eight-time Pro Bowl player, started 180 games from 2000 through 2012, recording a team-record 1,779 tackles. The ninth overall selection in the 2000 draft has 41.5 sacks, 22 interceptions, 16 fumble recoveries and 11 forced fumbles. He was the AP's defensive player of the year in 2005 and helped lead the 2006 team to the Super Bowl.

"Over the last 13 years Brian Urlacher has been an outstanding player, teammate, leader and face of our franchise," chairman George McCaskey said. "As Bears fans, we have been lucky to have such a humble superstar represent our city. He embodies the same characteristics displayed by the Bears all-time greats who played before him and he will eventually join many of them in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. We thank Brian for all he has given our team and our city. He will always be a part of the Bears family. We wish him the very best."

Urlacher told the team's flagship radio station WBBM-AM in Chicago that he was not shocked that it came to this.

"I am definitely not surprised. I kind of had this feeling this whole offseason with the way the whole thing was being handled," Urlacher said. "We made an offer, the Bears asked us to make an offer early, so we did. Never heard back from them. They made an offer, we responded to their offer and it was more like an ultimatum is what it was. It was, Sign this contract or we are going to move on. And I didn't feel like that was the direction I wanted to go."

The parting with Urlacher is just the latest change in what's been a busy offseason for Chicago.

The Bears fired coach Lovie Smith after a second straight

late collapse left them out of the playoffs for the fifth time in six years, although they did finish with 10 wins.

They replaced him with the offensive-minded Marc Trestman, hoping he could get the most out of quarterback Jay Cutler, and addressed two major issues in free agency by signing left tackle Jermon Bushrod from New Orleans and tight end Martellus Bennett from the New York Giants.

Trestman also said that the Bears wouldn't change much from the cover-2 scheme they ran under Smith, but he offered what seemed like lukewarm endorsements when asked in recent weeks about Urlacher.

Now, they're parting ways. And the Bears have big holes to fill at the position.

Their only starting linebacker under contract is Lance Briggs. Strong side linebacker Nick Roach—who also saw time in the middle—signed with Oakland.

It's not clear what's next for Urlacher. He had said he wanted to return to the Bears and had posted pictures on Twitter in recent weeks indicating he was working his way back into shape, but whether he will latch on with another team remains to be seen.

His agents did not immediately respond to messages seeking comment.

Urlacher sprained his medial collateral ligament and partially sprained the posterior cruciate ligament in his left knee during the 2011 regular-season finale against Minnesota and hasn't been the same since then.

He barely participated in training camp, had an arthroscopic procedure in mid-August to relieve the swelling, and spent most of the season trying to regain his old form.

Then, he came up lame in coverage on the second-to-last snap of the Bears' overtime loss to Seattle in early December, an injury that ended his season and his tenure with the Bears.

Former Bears defensive end Alex Brown said it was a "sad day" on Twitter and called Urlacher the "best football player I have ever had the pleasure of stepping on the field with."

A safety with lightning speed, the 6-foot-4 Urlacher initially lined up at strong side linebacker for the Bears but lost the job to Roosevelt Colvin. He made the switch to middle linebacker during his first season when Barry Minter was injured and went on to become the NFL's defensive rookie of the year, the start of a long run that saw him anchor a defense that consistently ranked among the league's best.

Now, his run with the Bears is over.

Asked what he'll miss the most about his time in Chicago, Urlacher told WBBM, "The No. 1 thing is my teammates. I am going to miss them the most."

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Heat run streak to 24 with huge comeback vs Cavs



CLEVELAND (AP)—Miami's winning streak was in danger of disappearing—in Cleveland, of all places.

But LeBron James wouldn't give up.

"That guy right there doesn't want to lose in this building," teammate Dwayne Wade said, nodding toward James, who left many angry Cavaliers fans behind when he bolted for Miami as a free agent three years ago. "Not tonight."

James scored 25 points as the Heat overcame a 27-point deficit in the third quarter and won their 24th straight game, 98-95 over the short-handed Cleveland Cavaliers on Wednesday night to extend the second-longest winning streak in NBA history.

The Heat are within nine games of matching the record of 33 consecutive wins held by the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers. Once believed to be untouchable, the mark is now within reach.

James and his teammates have insisted the record isn't one of their goals, and for more than 30 minutes the defending champions seemed disinterested and on the verge of losing for the first time since Feb. 1. Miami trailed 67-40 with 7:44 left in the third quarter.

But behind the irrepressible James, who added 12 rebounds and 10 assists in 42 minutes, the Heat inched closer to history and matched the NBA's biggest comeback this season, according to STATS.

"This was one of the most bizarre, unique days of my life with everything that happened," said James, referring to a homecoming in which a fan ran onto the floor and the opening tip was delayed 35 minutes by a leaky scoreboard. "It also was one of the best comebacks I've ever been a part of."

James had 14 points, seven rebounds, three assists and two steals in the fourth as Miami rallied to win for the second game in a row. The Heat were down 17 points—13 in the fourth quarter—and stormed back to beat Boston 105-103 on Monday and surpass the 2007-08 Houston Rockets for the second-longest streak in NBA history.

"I knew there was a lot of time, so we never panicked," James said. "We were down 27 with 18 minutes left. That's a lifetime in basketball."

Although the Cavs were missing All-Star guard Kyrie Irving, Dion Waiters and Anderson Varejao—their top three scorers—they pushed Miami to the limit.

It wasn't until James, playing his fourth game back in Cleveland since leaving, made two free throws with 4.7 seconds left that Miami could relax, but just a little. The Cavs had one last chance to tie it, but C.J. Miles was long with a 3-pointer in the final second, letting Miami off the hook.

Following the game, James stopped to sign a few autographs as he made his way to Miami's locker room. This was much tougher than he and the Heat could have imagined. The win also completed a five-game road trip, dubbed "The Reunion Tour" by James because Miami visited Wade's home in Milwaukee, Chris Bosh's former team in Toronto and Ray Allen's in Boston.

"The streak wasn't on my mind, but us getting blown out was," James said. "I was going to be the only guy to take an 'L' on the reunion tour."

Mario Chalmers added 17 points



AP
Miami Heat's LeBron James (6) shoots over Cleveland Cavaliers' Daniel Gibson (1) during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, March 20, 2013, in Cleveland.

and Wade had 11 for the Heat, who outscored the Cavs 30-18 in the fourth quarter and 64-40 in the second half.

Wayne Ellington had 20 points and Tristan Thompson 18 for Cleveland, which went from a stunning upset to blowing the biggest lead in a loss in franchise history.

"We knew it was coming," Thompson said of the Heat's comeback. "They were the NBA champions last season. They're not going to lay down. Champions don't lay down even when they're down by 27. We knew they were going to make a push. Guys went out and made plays, so you have to give them credit."

Grizzlies 90, Thunder 89, OT

In Memphis, Tennessee, Marc Gasol tipped in Zach Randolph's miss with less than a second left in overtime, lifting the Grizzlies to the win.

In a game that had all the intensity of a playoff matchup, Jerryd Bayless connected from the top of the key for Memphis with 3.7 seconds left in regulation to tie it at 83. Bayless had 10 points in the fourth quarter.

After Gasol's tip over Kevin Durant put the Grizzlies ahead, Russell Westbrook's desperation shot from past halfcourt was off the mark and Memphis walked away with its 16th victory in 19 games.

Mike Conley led the Grizzlies with 24 points and Bayless had 20.

Durant led the Thunder with 32 points, including 15 in the third quarter.

Knicks 106, Magic 94

In New York, Carmelo Anthony scored 21 points to lead New York over Orlando after missing the previous three games with a knee injury.

J.R. Smith had 22 points for New York, still short-handed in the front-

court but looking much better with Anthony back. The NBA's second-leading scorer hadn't played since leaving the Knicks' road trip last week to have fluid drained from the back of his right knee.

He said he felt much better after the morning shootaround and moved much better, shooting 7 of 14 and grabbing eight rebounds.

The Knicks shot 53 percent and won their second straight after dropping the first four games of their five-game trip. All-Star center Tyson Chandler is expected to miss about a week with a bulging disk, and reserve forwards Amare Stoudemire, Rasheed Wallace and Kurt Thomas all could miss the rest of the regular season. But New York had no trouble despite using a small lineup that featured 6-foot-9 Kenyon Martin as the center.

Tobias Harris and Andrew Nicholson each scored 14 points for the Magic in their fifth straight loss. They played without center Nikola Vucevic because of an illness in the second night of a difficult back-to-back, after losing by 22 at Indiana on Tuesday.

New York beat Orlando for the sixth straight time and swept the season series for the first time since 1997-98.

Hawks 98, Bucks 90

In Atlanta, Jeff Teague scored 27 points and Al Horford had 26, taking control after a sluggish first quarter to lead Atlanta past Milwaukee.

Teague scored 11 points in the second quarter and a dozen more in the third as the Hawks pushed out to a 77-59 lead. Horford scored 10 points in the final period and finished with 15 rebounds, stepping up to help the Hawks hold off a Milwaukee comeback.

Led by Brandon Jennings with 21 points, the Bucks closed to 94-90. But

Jennings missed a free throw that could have made it a one-possession game, then came up short on a tough jumper with Teague in his face. Josh Smith clinched it by making two free throws with 27.9 seconds left.

Smith also had a double-double, scoring just 12 points on 5-of-14 shooting but helping out with a season-high 16 rebounds. Devin Harris added 15 points.

Bobcats 107, Raptors 101

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Byron Mullens scored 25 points, Gerald Henderson had another solid all-around game and Charlotte beat Toronto to win consecutive games for the first time since mid-November.

Mullens scored 12 points in the fourth quarter. The reserve made his final eight free throws, including four with less than 13 seconds to go as Charlotte won its third straight at home.

Henderson scored 21 points on 8-of-14 shooting and added seven rebounds and five assists, continuing the best stretch of his four-year NBA career. He has scored at least 20 points in five of the last seven games.

Rudy Gay had 25 points and DeMar DeRozan added 19 points for the Raptors, who have lost seven of their last eight in Charlotte and fell to 9-25 on the road.

Ben Gordon finished with 16 points for the Bobcats and Josh McRoberts had 12 points and 12 rebounds.

Nets 113, Mavericks 96

In Dallas, Brook Lopez led Brooklyn with 38 points and Deron Williams had 31 in his first visit to Dallas since spurning his hometown team in free agency.

Williams scored 26 in the second half, repeatedly hitting shots and occasionally assisting on a basket by Lopez to prevent a Dallas rally in the fourth quarter.

Williams also hit a fadeaway jumper after a blocked shot by Lopez, running to his bench with a big smile after Dallas called timeout with the Nets up 97-88 midway through the fourth. The Mavericks didn't get closer than six after that.

Dirk Nowitzki led Dallas with 16 points and had a team-high six rebounds, compared to 22 boards for Reggie Evans of the Nets, who out-rebounded the Mavericks 45-34.

Hornets 87, Celtics 86

In New Orleans, Anthony Davis beat Kevin Garnett and Jeff Green to a last-second tip-in, helping the Hornets end a four-game skid.

Davis, who missed the morning shootaround with an illness, finished with nine points and eight rebounds. Ryan Anderson scored 21 points and Eric Gordon had 18 for the Hornets.

Paul Pierce scored 11 of his 28 points in the last six minutes to nearly lead Boston back from a nine-point deficit, but missed a jumper with 16 seconds left that could have put the Celtics up by three.

Garnett, returning from a two-game absence caused by a left thigh injury and the flu, had 20 points—not quite enough to prevent a second

straight loss.

Clippers 101, 76ers 72

In Los Angeles, Chris Paul scored 19 points as the Clippers bounced back on the second night of back-to-back games.

Paul also had nine assists and six rebounds while Blake Griffin had a relatively quiet showing with seven points, nine rebounds and six assists. The Clippers were without Chauncey Billups and Eric Bledsoe, who were sidelined by injuries.

Los Angeles improved to 27-8 at home after losing four of its previous seven, including a night earlier at Sacramento.

Spencer Hawes had 16 points, seven rebounds and seven assists for the 76ers, who have dropped 14 in a row on the road, where they are 6-24 this season. Thaddeus Young added 13 points and Evan Turner finished with 12.

Spurs 104, Warriors 93

In San Antonio, Tim Duncan had 25 points, 13 rebounds, six assists and four blocks, leading San Antonio to the win.

Tiago Splitter added 17 points, Manu Ginobili had 16 points and seven assists and fellow reserve Nando De Colo had 10 points for San Antonio (52-16), which is second to Miami (53-14) for the league's best record.

Stephen Curry had 24 points for Golden State (39-31), which remains sixth in the West. Harrison Barnes added 13 points, Jarrett Jack had 14, David Lee finished with 10 points and 12 rebounds.

Duncan was 11 for 17 from the field. It was his 13th game of at least 20 points and 10 rebounds this season.

Rockets 100, Jazz 93

In Houston, James Harden scored 29 points to help Houston improve its positioning in the Western Conference playoff race.

Jeremy Lin added 24 for the Rockets, who currently hold the No. 7 spot in the West. They lead the idle Los Angeles Lakers by 1 1/2 games and are three ahead of the sliding Jazz.

The Rockets led by 19 points after three quarters and withstood a late surge by the Jazz to hold on for the victory.

Utah has lost 10 of its last 13 games. Gordon Hayward led the Jazz with 27 points and Al Jefferson added 18 points and 11 rebounds.

Wizards 88, Suns 79

In Phoenix, John Wall scored 19 points and Washington picked up its first victory at Phoenix in more than six years.

Nene had 17 points and eight rebounds, Kevin Seraphin added 16 points and Trevor Ariza scored 14 for the Wizards, who won for the fourth time in five games. Washington improved to 6-26 away from home, tying Charlotte, Philadelphia and Sacramento for the fewest road wins in the NBA.

The Wizards played without center Emeka Okafor, who missed his first game this season with an illness. Washington snapped a five-game losing streak in Phoenix and swept the Suns for the first time since 2001-02.

Wesley Johnson and Goran Dragic scored 18 points apiece and Luis Scola added 11 off the bench for the Suns, who have lost five of six.

La Salle outshoots Boise St, 80-71



DAYTON, Ohio (AP)—One hot guard is awfully handy at NCAA tournament time. Four? Pretty much unbeatable.

Tyrone Garland led La Salle's guard-driven offense with 22 points, and the Explorers wrapped up the NCAA tournament's First Four by getting the better of an old-fashioned shootout, beating Boise State 80-71 on Wednesday night.

It was a notable moment for the 13th-seeded Explorers (22-9), who hadn't even been in the tournament for 21 years. Now, they head to Kansas City to play fourth-seeded Kansas State on Friday.

And it'll be a nostalgic trip back to the city where they won the national title 59 years ago by beating Bradley in the title game.

Kansas City? Here they come. "Unbelievable tradition here," coach John Giannini said. "I think people have tended to have forgotten what a basketball power La Salle was for over four decades. So it's a big deal. It's a big deal to re-establish that. It's a big deal for people who attended La Salle and love La Salle, who had great basketball, and certainly they've longed for that."

It'll be tough to play any better on offense in KC than they did on Wednesday night.

Ramon Galloway, one of the Atlantic 10's top scorers, added 21 points in a fast-paced offense that did pretty much whatever it wanted. The Explorers shot a season-high 63 percent from the field - 16 of 22 in the second half.

Garland went 9 of 11 from the field—his best shooting game of the season—and the Explorers were 11 of 21 behind the arc.

"It's an unbelievable feeling," Garland said. "When I came here, coach told me I could help him win games and get him to the next step."

Thirteenth-seeded Boise State (21-11) got its first at-large bid and was looking for the first NCAA tournament win in its history. The Broncos were up to it in a game of try-to-top-this shooting, falling to 0-6 in the tournament.

Anthony Drmic had a game-high 28 points for the Broncos, who shot 49 percent but trailed most of the way.

"We didn't shoot the ball that bad," Drmic said. "Give them credit. But it starts with defense. We didn't come to play defense. We couldn't stop them driving, so I'm not very happy with that."

La Salle is back in the tournament for the first time since 1992, a span that included a rape scandal involving three players. The men's and women's basketball coaches were fired over it in 2004, and Giannini came in to dig out the program.

Giannini led the Explorers to back-to-back 20-win seasons for the first time since 1988-90. His first coaching appearance in the NCAA tournament completed the rebuilding.

His guards led the way, as they have all the way.

"I recruited Ty really, really hard out of high school, and I told him, 'This is why I chased you all over the place, to win NCAA tournament games and see if you could be a great player,'" Giannini said. "I knew he could do it."

Although the two teams had never played, they felt like they knew each other from somewhere. They saw mirror images of themselves as they watched videos in preparation for the game—two teams that use four guards, taking an uncommonly small approach to a big man's game.

La Salle's best is the 6-foot-3 Galloway, who was second in the Atlantic 10 with 17 points per game. He's taken on a bigger role since 6-foot-11 center Steve Zack sprained his left foot in early March, sidelining him indefinitely. Zack was on crutches Wednesday, towering over the rest of the Explorers during warmups.

James Madison 68, LIU 55

In Dayton, Ohio, After winning the program's first NCAA

tournament game in 30 years, James Madison sounds as if it's not done.

A.J. Davis, who stepped in as a starter because the leading scorer was suspended for a half, led the way with 20 points as the Dukes beat LIU Brooklyn 68-55 on Wednesday night in the First Four.

Immediately, their thoughts turned to top-seeded Indiana (27-6), who they'll play on the same University of Dayton Arena court on Friday night.

"They're Indiana," defiant defensive stalwart Andre Nation said. "We know about them. We see them on the TV all the time. It's not nothing new."

He's not the only Duke who was undaunted.

"We have some older guys. They're typically pretty unafraid of any of the challenges we face," coach Matt Brady said.

James Madison was without suspended starter Rayshawn Goins for the first half but built a big lead. After the Blackbirds (20-14) battled back to take a brief lead, the Dukes surged again to win going away by closing the game on a 10-2 run.

Davis opened the game with an emphatic 3 as if to say this was his time. And he didn't let up.

"Coach said don't do anything outside of your character, just be humble and play your

game," Davis said. "While Rayshawn was sitting out, a couple of guys came off the bench and stepped up for us."

Charles Cooke, who hadn't scored in three of his last four games, added 15 points and Nation added 14 for the Dukes, who were winless in the NCAA tournament since 1983 and hadn't played in the big dance in 19 years.

Jamal Olasewere had 20 points and 10 rebounds and C.J. Garner 16 points for the Blackbirds, who have lost in their first game in each of their six trips to the tournament, including the last three years.

Goins, JMU's leading scorer (12.7) and rebounder (7.4), was suspended for the first half following a weekend arrest. Police in Harrisonburg, Va., said they were called to break up a party early Sunday morning and Goins was shouting obscenities at them.

Yet Brady, who made the call to sit Goins, is 1-0 in NCAA play.

"Some of the greats of the game have been in the NCAA tournament and have struck out for a few years at a time," he said, shaking his head. "This really says more about this team than it does me. These seniors really wanted the opportunity to win a game for our program, and I feel great for our kids."

After falling behind by as many as 12 points early, E.J. Reed's two foul shots with

15:02 left gave the Blackbirds their first lead of the game. But after falling behind, JMU found another gear.

Devon Moore, who had six assists, scored in transition right through the heart of the lane, Nation hit a follow and Davis took a long pass and popped in the shot off glass for a 45-40 advantage.

Nation then blocked a shot—one of 10 by the Dukes—at the other end and tossed a halfcourt lead pass to Cooke, who dunked while being fouled. His three-point play made it a 9-0 run for a 48-40 lead with under 12 minutes left.

The Blackbirds never got closer than five points again.

Olasewere gave credit to JMU's defense.

"(Nation) had five blocks as a guard," he said softly. "Around the rim, he made me struggle."

Goins came in early in the second half but appeared out of synch for several minutes. After missing his first three shots badly, he finally got on the board with a muscular move inside on a putback with 7:36 left to push the lead to 56-51. The next trip down the floor, he scored again, this time off a nifty assist pass inside from Ron Curry.

It was not a huge falloff going to Davis in the starting lineup in place of Goins, since Davis was MVP of the Colonial Athletic Association tournament just over a week ago, and came in averaging 20.5 in his last 10 games and 20.7 in the CAA tourney.



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YOUTH PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Name: Jayda Mendoza
Age Group: U15
Team: MP United FC
Position: Center
Midfield/Striker
Jersey No.: #12
Village: Finasisu
School: Hopwood Junior High School
Grade: 7th
Favorite Player or Team: US Women's NT/Alex Morgan



Mendoza

it is to play.

Q: Why do you like to play football?

A: I always like playing soccer since I was a little girl and I am not that good with other sports.

Q: What are your greatest football achievements/moments?

A: My greatest moment in football for this season would have to be making my first successful one-two pass that lead to our only goal in the game we won.

Q: What other message can you share with the football community?

A: Play to win but play fair. Always remember to have fun and enjoy the game you love playing, like football in my case, and NEVER EVER GIVE UP!

"Jayda was chosen because of her commitment and love of the game. When Michelle Masga and I first started coaching her, we noticed that she was a bit distracted and was slowly losing her love for the game, but as the practices continued, she regained interest. Jayda's commitment and drive

stand out above all because she shows up to every single game and practice and gives noth-

Name: Daniel Kim
Age Group: U12
Team: MP United Silver
Position: Midfielder
Jersey No.: #14
Village: San Vicente
School: Saipan International School
Grade: 5th

Q: How did you become interested in football?

A: I did it for fun and to become a better player.

Q: Why do you like to play football?

short end.

Falcons 16, Jets 2

The Falcons held a commanding 10-2 lead after just two innings and made light work of its opponents.

The team picked up two runs out of the gate off three hits, which included an RBI double for Max Pangelinan and an RBI base knock by Arby Yaguel and reeled off another nine shots to lock in the chokehold in the second inning.

Pangelinan, Ace Evangelista, and Yaguel all bagged RBI singles, Keoki Blas and Kobe Lifofoi each stole a dish, and Traven Quitugua belted an RBI triple.

The latter blasted another triple in the third inning and scored his team's final run off an ensuing error and the Falcons held the jets to one run in the fourth to force the early decision. The Jets' initial run came from Napu Pua earlier in the second inning off a wild pitch.

Winning pitcher Yaguel struck out six batters through three innings.

Pangelinan bagged three hits for three RBIs in the match.

Braves 10, Twins 1

The Twins' lone score came in the opening frame from leadoff man Dominic Yumul who drew a walk and scored off a passed ball.

From there it was all Braves as they immediately got the run back in the bottom side off a wild pitch.

The group then moved ahead, 6-1, off hits in the second inning off two hits and some errors; Vicente Camacho logged a RBI triple.

They then added a run in the third inning as Austin Benavente singled on, stole second base,

of 36. Manukai is fielding 16 swimmers, Tsunami Guam and Kwajalein have 13 each, and Manhoben has nine. The host and Tsunami Saipan also have listed identical numbers of participants at 20 each, while 19 other Saipan swimmers have also signed up.

The ocean swim will have four divisions: 600m (for U8), 1K (9 to 10), 1.3K (11 to 12), and the 2.5K for 13-and-above participants. Adults swimmers can choose either the 1.3K or 2.5K event. Races begins at 8am and interested swimmers can still sign up on the day of the competition.

ing less than 110 percent effort. Her commitment to the sport is something that every play-

A: I like to score goals for my team.

Q: What are your greatest football achievements?

A: I scored the winning goal against Matansa, 3-2. I also scored the goal that forced our game against Shirley's to a draw.

Q: What other message can you share with the football community?

A: Practice hard and don't



Kim

er should follow."—Jayda's coaches Jhaneeka Atalig and Michelle Masga

give up.

"Daniel delivers when the team needs goal. After scoring, he always comes back to help on defense. He is much smaller compared to other players in his position, but he is not afraid to attack the opponent's defense.

He listens to me, so he is easy to coach."—Daniel's coach Joon Lee.

LAOLAO

From Page 32

off two walks and a couple of errors, but suffered pitching woes and watched its rival go ahead, 8-1, off seven walks and an RBI single by Maratita. Vincent Torres II and Joe Javier stole home in the mix and another run was credited off a wild pitch.

The Little Legals added two runs in the third exchange off an error and a stolen dish and then tied the match at 8-all in the fourth inning off a couple of base hits by Jose Camacho and Gloyd Martin Jr., but Laolao's Dwayne Reyes singled on and scored the go-ahead run off a fielder's choice in the fifth frame and the latter held on for the win.

Laolao reliever Maratita struck out six batters through 3 1/3 innings, though his teammate Reyes was issued the win. Little Legals' Barry Lizama Jr. logged two RBIs.

Enforcers 13, Survivors 9

The Enforcers drew first blood with four runs in the second inning off a leadoff triple by Kenneth Kaipat that was followed by a couple of walks, a base hit, and some errors.

The Survivors answered with two runs in the top of the third inning, but then broke down on the field in the bottom side as the Enforcers marched on, 9-2, primarily off extra throws.

The Survivors did not give up and added two runs in the top of the fourth inning, but the Enforcers fired back with an RBI single by Shakobe Rangamar who was doubled in by Kaipat in the bottom portion as the

team stretched out to a 12-4 favor. The latter was grounded in on a fielder's choice.

The Enforcers then added its final run to close the fifth inning and held off a late rally by the Survivors in the final stand.

The latter team mustered five runs at the end off a pair of leadoff walks followed by four hits and an RBI fielder's choice by Glenn Taro. Theo Laniyo bagged an RBI single in the mix, while three other runs made it home off errors.

Rockies 13, IT&E 5

Rockies' Dai Podziewski led off the game with a solo shot to help give the team an early 2-0 lead. Donavin Ada also bagged an RBI later in the inning.

IT&E tied it briefly in the top of the second inning with a trio of hits, including a two-RBI base knock by Josato Cruz, but the Rockies nosed ahead in the bottom half as Podziewski hustled out a fielder's choice and scored off an error.

Then it was Ada's turn to go yard as he unloaded a solo blast in the bottom of the third inning as the group pressed ahead, 5-2. The second run was plated off an error.

IT&E did not go away and made it a one-run game, 4-5, in the top of the fourth, scoring off a wild pitch and an RBI single by Mathew Richardson. However, the Rockies got them right back in the bottom side thanks to some defensive blunders.

IT&E's final run came in the top of the fifth inning with patience at the plate, but were denied in the final stand.

The Rockies went on to add a run in the bottom of the fourth and added some insurance in the

fifth off three hits, which included a two-RBI smash by Ada.

Winning pitcher Kenneth Diaz Jr. went all five innings and struck out seven batters.

SUNDAY Comets II 16, Red Sox 11

The Comets darted off to a 4-0 lead in the first inning off a trio of hits that followed some early infield jitters, but the Red Sox responded with five runs in the bottom half off four hits, which included a two-RBI single by Luis Blas and an RBI base poke by Joseph Magofna. The other runs came around off an error and a fielder's choice.

The count shifted to 6-5 in favor of the Sox as both teams added a run in the second exchange and Bank of Saipan moved in front, 7-5, in the third inning off an RBI grounder by Magofna.

The Comets II managed to move around a run in the top of the fourth, but the Red Sox countered with two runs in bottom side for a, 9-6, lead heading into the last six outs.

The Comets II dramatically came to life in the top of the fifth inning and pulled ahead, 10-9, as a pair of leadoff walks were escorted home off a double by Dennis Teregeyo. The latter and J.P. Castro scored soon after off errors.

The Red Sox managed to tie the match with a run in the bottom side, but the Comets II caught a wave of six runs in the top of the sixth off three hits coupled with three walks to nab the win. Niffon Raskang cracked a two-RBI double and Jesse Taitano an RBI single.

Red Sox's Magofna bagged three hits for four RBIs on the

awarded to the Top 8 finishers in each races, while SSC will award trophies to the Top 3 placers in each age group (U8, 9 to 10, 11 to 12, 13 to 14, 15 to 18, and 19-and-above). Points will be awarded to swimmers based on how they finish in the race to determine the Top 3 placers.

Ocean swim Sunday

Meanwhile, the weekend competition will culminate with the 35th Annual Saipan Ocean Swim in Susupe (near the former AJ's Restaurant).

So far 109 have already registered for the Sunday event, breaking last year's number

sion. Next up is the 400m and the last was the 800m freestyle races and both are for the 11-and-above age group. Also set for the morning session are the 50m butterfly, 100m freestyle, and 100m backstroke for all ages.

The 50m breaststroke event for all ages kicks off the afternoon session tomorrow at 2pm, while the remaining races are 200m butterfly and 200m breaststroke (for 11-and-above), 400m freestyle (for 9-and-above) and the 50m freestyle, 200m individual medley, and 200m freestyle relay for all ages.

Each swimmers is allowed to enter as many as eight solo races and one relay. Ribbons will be

and scored off an error.

His teammate Robin Sablan hustled out a dropped third strike and eventually stole home in the fourth and the Braves' last two runs came in the fifth inning off two hits, which included an

SHIRLEY'S

From Page 32

win by forfeiture, as Paire did not have enough players for the match. Matansa remained undefeated in four games.

BOYS U15 Paire 3, Matansa 1

Over at the Oleai Sports Complex Field last Friday, Paire topped Matansa.

Three different players scored for Paire, while Matansa avoided a shutout loss after hitting the board just three minutes into the match.

Paire got its offense going early with Moises Belza making a goal in the third minute. Eleven minutes later, Gideon Borja also scored, lifting Paire to a 2-0 halftime lead.

Both teams had a tough offensive game in the second half before James David broke Paire's silence in the 72nd, while Euly James Ermitanio finally answered for Matansa five

HIGH SCHOOL

From Page 32

will run from May 8 to 10.

The association is also implementing the same rules it used in selecting the qualifiers last years. All records in the trials will be compiled and the Top 12 best marks in field events will earn slots to the championships, while only the Top 8 in the running and jumping events will qualify to the May tournament.

In the elementary division, NMA is implementing a zone system. For the sprints (60m, 100m, 200m), the Top 2 finishers in each zone will automatically qualify for the All Schools Championship, while then the rest of the times from all zones will be compiled with the Top 2 getting the last two tickets.

For the middle distance (400m, 800m, and 1,500m), throw (javelin, softball and shotput), and jump events (long and high jump), the Top 3 from each zone will make it straight

RBI single by Camacho.

Braves' Leonardo Sablan swung 4-for-4 with an RBI and a stolen base in the game.

The Enforcers' red-hot offense covered up seven errors committed on the field.

minutes later.

MP United 4, Shirley's 0

In the second game last Friday, MP United cruised past Shirley's.

After a cold first half, MP United turned the heat on in the second, dropping all their four goals in the remaining 45 minutes of the match. Ryan Kim scored first for MP United in the 42nd, while Moris Villanueva quickly gave the team its second goal just a minute later. Daniel Lim made it three in a row when he logged his goal in the 61st, while Dakota Hall also broke into the scoreboard with his goal in the 80th.

BOYS U18 MP United 1, Paire 0

MP United also won in the lone boys U18 match last Saturday at the Oleai pitch.

Jehn Joyner foiled Paire's bid for a scoreless draw after drilling the go-ahead goal in the last minute of the match.

to the championship, while the Top 3 from all zones combined will get the remaining slots.

Zone A is composed of SCS, Dandan Elementary School, Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, William S. Reyes Elementary School, and Agape. Whispering Palms is in Zone B, joining Oleai, Kagman, San Antonio, and Brilliant Start, while Zone C has Koblerville, SIS, Mt. Carmel, San Vicente, Tanapag, and Garapan.

NMA will take a break from the trials next week to give way to the Lenten season and will resume action on April with Zone B holding qualifiers in the 400m, 800m, and 1,500m run and softball throw. The same events will be held for Zone A (April 2) and Zone C (April 3), while Week 2 of the high school and junior high trials is set for April 4.

The remaining qualifiers schedules are as follows: April 8 to 11 (Week 3), April 15 to 8 (Week 4), and April 22 to 25 (Week 5).

SSC

From Page 32

the opener. The 1,500m freestyle and 200m backstroke races are open to swimmers in the 11-and-above division, while the 50m backstroke, 100m breaststroke, 100m butterfly, and 200m medley relay are for all ages, and the 200m freestyle feature U10 participants.

For the Saturday races, events are divided into two sessions with the morning competition beginning at 8am. The morning session starts with the 200m freestyle for the 11-and-above divi-

Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League Finals

PHOTOS By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND



Angie's Boys' Angelo Fernando loses the handle on the ball on his way to the basket against Refaluwasch Rebels in Game 2 of their best-of-three championship in the 3rd Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League last March 13 at the Garapan Basketball Court.



Angie's Boys' Eugene Manglona looks for a route into the lane against R-Rebels during Game 2.



R-Rebels' Jimmy Pua hacks Angie's Boys' Jasper Yap, left, under the basket during Game 3.



R-Rebels' Joe Diaz humbly accepts the Best Coach trophy during the awards ceremony held after Game 3 last March 15.



R-Rebels' Fred Litulumar was selected as the most valuable player in the final series.



Angie's Boys' Ralph Francisco was selected as the regular season MVP during the awards ceremony held after Game 3.



Rio Jacob, center, accepts the Best Uniform team award on behalf of Servitek during the awards ceremony held after Game 3.



R-Rebels' Omar Nawaz secures a rebound during Game 2.



Angie's Boys' James Dela Cruz takes a contested shot in the paint during Game 3.



R-Rebels' Roy Norita sneaks in a shot from the right elbow during Game 3.

Bears part ways with veteran Brian Urlacher

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Heat run streak to 24 with huge comeback vs Cavs

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Shirley's snaps skid in girls U15



A Shirley's FC defender tried to block a hit from an MP United player during their first meeting in the girls U15 division of the NMIFA youth league at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Shirley's FC is back on track in the girls U15 division of the 2013 NMIFA Spring Youth League after beating MP United, 2-0, last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.



It was Shirley's second win in as many games against MP United and also second overall this season, as the former dropped back-to-back matches early this month, bowing to Tan Holdings (0-1), and Matansa (0-3).

Elaine Enriquez and De Jana Muna scored one goal apiece to put Shirley's back into the win column. Enriquez drew first blood in the 15th minute, while Muna lit up the scoreboard right into the first minute of the second half.

In the other game at the Hopwood pitch, Matansa was handed the

See SHIRLEY'S on Page 30

High school, jr. high trials kick off

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



High school and junior high student trooped the Oleai Sports Complex yesterday to join the first qualifying events in the 2013 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Championships for their age group.

Over 100 students from both public and private schools on Saipan competed in Day 1 of the trials for the 14 and 18 age group and they participated in the 60m, 100m, 200m, and 1,500 runs and shot put and discus throws.

"We have some good results in the 60m run. There are new runners both in junior high and high school who have potentials," said tournament director of Northern Marianas Athletics coach Elias Rangamar.

Schools invited to join yesterday's trials were Hopwood Junior High School, Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, Saipan International School, Kagman High School, Whispering Palms, Saipan Community School, Marianas Baptists Academy, Mt. Carmel, and Agape Christian School.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Hopwood Junior High School student competes in the discus throw qualifying events for the 2013 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Championships yesterday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Yesterday's qualifiers were the last for Week 1, as events for elementary division (U8, U10, and U12) were held last Monday until Wednesday. NMA will have four more weekly trials before selecting students who will compete in the 2013 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Championships that

See HIGH SCHOOL on Page 30

Laolao Bay survives Little Legals, 9-8



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Junior Police Officers Program Enforcers' Shakobe Rangamar takes a cut during their game against the Dial Rent-To-Own/Martha's Store Survivors in the Major League last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Field.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Laolao Bay Golf Resort (4-2) won the showdown at the Kagman corral, 9-8, over Attorney Robert T. Torres Little Legals (2-4) as the Saipan Little League's Major Division continued last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

In other results the Junior Police Officers Program En-

forcers (3-2) downed the Dial Rent-To-Own/Martha's Store Survivors (1-5), 13-9, and the Pinnacle Staffing Rockies (4-1) defeated IT&E (1-5), 13-5, on Saturday, while on Sunday, Attorney Vince Torres Comets II (4-2) defeated the Bank of Saipan Red Sox (2-3), 16-11; the unbeaten Talaabwogh Stars Association Falcons capped its sixth straight win over the Juan Santiago Jets (1-5), 16-2; and the Natibu Sports Association Braves (4-0) overwhelmed Rep.

Christopher Deleon Guerrero As Matuis Twins (1-5), 10-1.

The rest of the Major League includes Comets I (4-1), GSM Ol'Aces (4-1), and Joeten Motors Kagman Ford Rangers (0-6).

This Saturday's pairings include Comets II versus IT&E at 9am followed at noon by the Twins against Comets I and ending with the Enforcers taking on the Rockies at 3pm.

Then on Sunday the Survivors open up against Laolao Bay at 9am followed by the Rangers against McDonald's at noon with the Jets ending the triple feature against the Little Legals at 3pm.

SATURDAY Laolao Bay Golf Resort 9, Little Legals 8

Laolao Bay's Pete Maratita busted an RBI double in the first inning, but was caught trying to steal home with ducks on the pond that abruptly ended what could have been a big payout.

The Legals then briefly took a 2-1 lead in the top of the inning

See LAOLAO on Page 30

SSC meet lures Marshalls, Guam swimmers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



For the first time in years, the Saipan Swim Club International Invitational Swim Meet will be a three-nation battle among CNMI, Guam, and the Marshall Islands bets.

Three clubs from Guam—Manukai Athletic Club, Manhoben Swim Club, and Tsunami Guam—will be competing in the two-day event that starts this afternoon and runs until tomorrow. Joining the Guam tankers are the Marshall Islands' Kwajalein Swim Team and the CNMI's SSC and Tsu-

nami Swimming Center Saipan. Kwajalein is bringing in 13 swimmers, while SSC and Tsunami are expected to field more than 20 swimmers each.

The first day of the competition kicks off at 3:30pm at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool with seven events lined up in

See SSC on Page 30



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Marshall Islands' Manukai Athletic Club gather for a group photo before going to Saipan to participate in this weekend's 2013 Saipan Swim Club International Invitational Swim Meet.